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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 156

WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 2009

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OPINION METER

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE

6

As of June 30, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnnmpheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

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Life Sentence

A federal judge rejected Bernard Madoff's plea for leniency, sentencing the 71-year-old swindler to life in prison.

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PSS restores 111 teachers, counselors

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has restored 111 positions for teachers and school counselors, thanks to the \$8.7 million it expects to get as its share of the stimulus funds.

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Over \$1M for ex-MTC employees remains pending

Telecom firm asks for patience, touts commitment

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over a hundred former employees of the Micronesia Telecommunications Corp., now IT&E, have yet to receive over \$1 million in total pension payout that the company is supposed to distribute on or

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House caps budget at \$162.82M

Senate to take up bill today



House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), top, listens in as Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), left, confers with Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) on the House concurrent resolution setting the Fiscal Year 2010 budget ceiling at \$162.82 million, in yesterday's session on Capital Hill. Also in the photo is Linda Muna, seated, of the House Clerk office.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After over four hours of debate in the morning and afternoon, the House of Representatives unanimously passed

yesterday a concurrent resolution that caps the Fiscal Year 2010 budget at \$162.82 million—as submitted by the Fitial administration on April 1.

The amount available for general government operations is \$148.81 million.

The Senate is expected to act on the resolution today.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) repeatedly told colleagues that the De-

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Saipan student gains Top 5 ranking at NJFL

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A Grace Christian Academy student emerged as one of the nation's best in impromptu speaking during the National Junior Forensic League competition held in Texas on Saturday.

Anastasia Schweiger, 14, grabbed fifth place in the final round of the impromptu speaking com-

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Members of the CNMI Team for the National Junior Forensic League show the awards and recognitions they got in the national tournament held Saturday in San Antonio, Texas. Anastasia Rose Schweiger, center second row, emerged the nation's Top 5th impromptu speaker, while the rest of the members were awarded plaques of recognition for their outstanding performances throughout the contest.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Local

Govendo says Fund is also to blame for the crisis

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's present financial crisis was caused by elected officials who ignored the Fund's situation but the Fund itself is also partially responsible for the mess, according to Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

In a footnote to his decision issued Monday, Govendo said the "blame game" does not solve the Fund's present predicament.

"However, the present crisis is a result of elected officials turning a blind eye to the health

of the Fund over the last 10 years and woefully ignoring the constitutional mandate imposed upon them," the judge said.

He said the Fund is also partially to blame for the present financial crisis because it "has been too generous in allowing the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the first generation of retirees to obtain benefits long after the original retiree has died."

"The Fund was designed to provide for retirees and their spouses. It is assumed that when

a person retires, his or her children are already grown up. The Fund is not for the children of the retirees' children," he said.

Govendo said this is unfair to future retirees who could possibly see the original retiree's family avail themselves of Fund benefits for over 18 years.

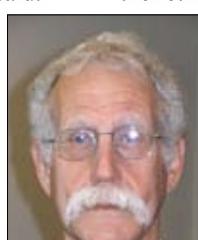
Govendo said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration did the right thing in replacing the defined benefit plan with the defined contribution plan.

"It stopped the bleeding and

made it possible to ascertain how many retirees are left in the defined benefit plan, how long they and their spouses will live, and how much money will be needed to take care of them," he said.

In the same order issued Monday, Govendo ruled that the government owes the Fund \$231.6 million in damages and that Public Law 15-15, which suspended payment of all government obligations to the Fund in fiscal years 2006 and 2007, is unconstitutional.

Assistant attorney general Anthony Welch, counsel for Fitial and Finance Secretary,



Govendo

had argued that Public Law 15-15 was enacted to address a financial crisis.

Welch said the CNMI is

nearly broke and that P.L. 15-15 offered "one of the few tools available to the Commonwealth to stabilize its finances."

PSS' deferred liability to Fund seen to reach \$15M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System's deferred liability to the Retirement Fund is projected to reach \$15 million by the end of this fiscal year, according to a PSS financial consultant.

Ed Tenorio, during a special board meeting yesterday, disclosed that this amount covers the two fiscal years of 2008 and 2009 and includes the system's federal employees.

In fiscal year 2008, PSS incurred a deferred liability to the Fund amounting to \$7 million, Tenorio said.

"For the current fiscal year, we're projecting our deferred liability at \$8 million," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deferred liability is the "variance" between the 36.7 percent actuarial employer's contribution rate that PSS was supposed to pay versus the 11 percent that is mandated by a new law.

Last Monday, the Superior Court ruled that the CNMI central government owes the Retirement Fund \$231.6 million in unpaid contributions and recommended an increase in the employer's contribution rate from 11 to 16 percent beginning August through end of the current fiscal year in September.

Tenorio said this recommendation would have little impact on the financial standing of PSS.

He said the remaining four pay periods through Sept. 30, 2009, would give PSS an additional \$127,000 obligation to the Fund.

However, through its own cost-saving efforts, Tenorio said the amount can still be covered under the current local appropriation for PSS.

He explained that the \$127,000 "impact" is the difference between the current actuarial rates of 11 percent against

the court's recommended 16 percent.

"If that 16 percent will be implemented starting in August, PSS will still be all right and can pay the \$127,000 to the Fund [under the current budget]," he said.

PSS was appropriated \$34.6 million this fiscal year for personnel and all others. Contribution to the Fund falls under the system's all others budget.

In its ruling issued Monday, the court said the employer contribution rate may need to be readjusted if it becomes apparent that 16 percent is not enough to keep the Fund alive.

\$500K shortfall

Tenorio reported that PSS also projects about \$500,000 shortfall in its personnel cost this fiscal year but savings generated from other areas such as all others and utilities will allow the system to address the problem.

As of June 6, PSS has kept its expenditures at \$3.4 million, he said. Schools also managed to save a significant amount on its utility consumption by some \$200,000 to date, he added. PSS was earlier projected to spend \$3 million on utilities.

"We recorded a figure way below \$3 million for our utilities," Tenorio said.

Public schools also obtained support from the private sector through educational tax credits amounting to \$153,000 to date.

Among the schools that received the largest educational tax credit donations are Saipan Southern High School, which got \$33,960, and Koblerville School, \$14,000.

It is estimated that a little over \$100,000 is being donated by private businesses to public schools every year.

Other schools with high ETC donations include San Vicente Elementary and Garapan Elementary, according to Tenorio.

Senate confirms Guerrero to serve on MPLT board

BY ANITA B. HOFSCHEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Senate unanimously confirmed yesterday Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust board.

"I think he's more than qualified," said Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider yesterday.

The vote was 7-0.

Guerrero is a former House Speaker and has served as president of the CNMI Indigenous Entrepreneurs Inc., a nonprofit

group that was a leading proponent of the 2007 Rota and Saipan casino initiatives.

"He has a keen interest in indigenous rights," said Charles P. Reyes, press secretary for Gov. Benigno Fitial, yesterday. "Clearly he is a man who is committed to the best interests of the indigenous people."

The Marianas Public Land Trust was established in Article XI of the CNMI Constitution to "make reasonable, careful and prudent investments" regarding CNMI public lands.



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Bill allocates \$295,000 to the Election Commission

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a 12-3 vote, the House of Representatives passed a bill yesterday appropriating a total of \$295,000 to the Commonwealth Election Commission and government health insurance claims.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul's House Bill 16-262 appropriates \$172,369.87 to the Commonwealth Election Commission for the 2009 general election and runoff election, if necessary.

Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero

Four arrested for alleged attack on man in extortion try, bribery

Police arrested Monday night four persons who allegedly beat up a man and threatened to throw him off Suicide Cliff.

One of the suspects also allegedly tried to bribe a police detective with \$1,000 in exchange for his release from jail.

Guo Fu Shan, Bao Hua He, Ma Chao Gu, and Li Ju Zhu, all Chinese, were served with arrest warrants in different locations on Saipan. Except for Zhu, all are males.

The four were brought to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing on charges of extortion, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

In addition, Shan was also held for bribery after he allegedly tried to bribe Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$25,000 cash each on Shan and He, and \$5,000 cash each for Gu and Zhu. Preliminary hearing was set for July 7, 2009 at 1:30pm.

Detective Leon Guerrero stated in his report that a person had called the Department of Public Safety in the afternoon of April 22 to report a disturbance behind

earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the office needs a funding of \$150,000 for the logistics and preparations for the gubernatorial polls set for November this year.

HB 16-262 also appropriates \$122,630.13 to Aetna for the payment of runoff claims incurred by members of the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Program.

"If the claims are not paid expeditiously, the Commonwealth risks losing insurance coverage for its employees," Yumul said in his bill introduced yesterday and passed the same day.

Those who voted "no" to pass-

ing the bill on the same day it was introduced were Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

The bill says the source of funding for both the election body and Aetna is the excess

sum of \$295,000 that will be paid into the general fund by the Marianas Public Land Trust pursuant to Article 11 section 6 of the CNMI Constitution and Public Law 12-27, and reported to the Legislature by MPLT chair Vianney B. Hocog on June 8.

Lea'u is new PSS associate commissioner

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Peter Lea'u, the former school principal of Saipan Southern High School, was named Monday as the Public School System's new acting Associate Commissioner for Administration and Services.

Lea'u now occupies the post vacated by David Borja, who was appointed Education Commissioner in 2005 and was fired by the board in June 2007.

Since Borja's departure, the associate commission post has been vacant and was twice announced by the management.

Lea'u said yesterday that starting next school year, SSHS will be supervised by Craig Garrison, who was named acting school principal upon his exit. Garrison is the school's incumbent vice principal.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lea'u has been with PSS for 16 years now. He was formerly the system's computer coordinator and teacher, positions that he served for four years since 1992.

Lea'u was then named vice

principal of Marianas High School where he served for five years until he was appointed principal of SSHS.

"I served SSHS for seven years...and I miss my students," Lea'u told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Among the important roles he said he will play as new acting ACAS is to continue what he has done for SSHS where he introduced and enforced innovative programs.

"I would like to continue what I did in SSHS and share it with our other schools," he said.

SSHS is the first school in the CNMI to adopt solar energy on its campus and among the very few schools that made huge strides in its computer and technology programs.

Lea'u said it is also among his tasks to bring the PSS central office closer to public schools and students.

"We need to have a close relationship with our schools... and that's what I would like to do: bring the central PSS to our schools and students so we can work together," he added.

RNC congratulates Heinz and Arnold

BY ANITA B. HOFSCHEIDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Republican National Committee lauded Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios yesterday on their victory in last Saturday's Republican primary.

"I congratulate former Speaker Heinz Hofschneider and his running mate, Speaker Arnold Palacios, on being chosen by Northern Marianas Republicans as our party's candidates for governor and lieutenant governor in the upcoming November election," said RNC chair Michael Steele in an official statement.

Hofschneider and Palacios garnered 3,382 votes while the opposing party, Babauta and Guerrero, fell short with 2,986 votes.

"I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to former governor Juan Babauta and his running mate Galvin Guerrero on their excellent campaign during the primary," said Steele. "Republicans can be proud of the campaigns both tickets ran."

GOP chair Ed Tenorio previously called the turnout of over 6,000 voters significant. In November, the Republicans will challenge the incumbent Covenant party and a team of independents for the highest office in the Commonwealth.

"The Republican National Committee is committed to winning this election and will work closely with RNC members Ed Tenorio, Mary Lou Ada and Bo Palacios to claim victory in November," Steele's statement added.

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NMI role in battling transnational crimes cited

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting Australian Federal Police Advisor to the Micronesian Transnational Crime Unit has underscored the need for the CNMI to help the region gather intelligence information to battle transnational crimes.

Pohnpei-based federal agent Mic

Murray told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the CNMI plays a vital role as a member of the MTCU because the program provides intelligence capability that affects the region.

Murray said the CNMI can assist Micronesia in the detection of transnational crimes such as illegal fishing, people smuggling, corruption, weapons trafficking, fraud, drugs, and money

laundering.

Murray cited the problem of illegal fishing.

"Illegal fishing is a terrible thing that affects the economy of all the countries in the region," he said. "What we are after is public support. Information is treated as confidential. Without public support the information is limited."

The federal officer met yesterday

with some police officials and other local law enforcement representatives.

Murray arrived on Saipan Monday. He is expected to go back to Pohnpei on Friday.

Department of Public Safety Police Officer I Murphy Paul was deployed for six months to the MTCU in Pohnpei. Police Officer III Sandy Hambros will replace Paul as CNMI representative to MTCU in Pohnpei starting July 20, 2009.

MTCU was established in April 2008.

MTCU is one of eight joint law en-

forcement intelligence units that are spread across the Pacific. Its main role is criminal intelligence gathering and target development.

Based in Pohnpei, MTCU consists of law enforcement representatives from Pohnpei, CNMI, Palau, and FSM.

The Australian Federal Office provides investigative and financial support to MTCU.

Other transnational crime units are located in PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Australia, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

petition that originally had hundreds of competitors in the preliminary rounds.

The good news was relayed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday by one of the CNMI team's coaches, Hilda Joyner, who was still in Texas with some of the students.

Schweiger was among 11 local students who represented the islands in the national competition that featured hundreds of middle schoolers from all over the United States and its territories.

The 2009 NJFL national tournament ended last Sunday in Saint Mary's Hall, San Antonio, Texas.

Joyner said students are scheduled to fly home yesterday from the competition.

Schweiger, the daughter of Rose and Tom Schweiger, has been joining the NJFL since last year. She was the gold medalist in the regional impromptu speaking competition that won her the ticket to the national tournament.

Saipan Tribune learned that hundreds of students competed in the preliminary rounds of each contest events, from among whom 20 were chosen for

the quarterfinals. The number was further trimmed to six for the semi-finals until the top winners were named.

"Our competitor for the impromptu won in all these rounds...and we're very proud! This is another good year for the CNMI team," Joyner said.

She said all members of the CNMI team were competitive all throughout the event and showed that they have what it takes to compete with other states and territories.

All members of the CNMI team were recognized and given plaques of recognition during the awarding rites.

Besides Schweiger, the other stu-

dents who represented the Commonwealth in the NJFL included Kahra Atalig, Emily Dotts, Eunice Park, Mikey Johnson, Anne Gelika Elenzano, Christian Punzalan, Crystalline Cristobal, Zalika Joyner, Glen Florendo, and Ju Hui Hwang.

The following are the national contest categories—impromptu, extemporaneous speech, Lincoln Douglas debate, humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, prose, poetry, original oratory, and duo interpretation.

Joyner said almost all of the CNMI students went all the way to the quarter-finals and some went to the semi-finals,

an indication that they were prepared.

"It was a tight, but friendly competition, and the hosting school, which was St. Mary's, was really nice and hospitable. It was a great experience for all the students who came down here to represent our island," she added.

She said parents and relatives of the participating students also graced the occasion to extend their support to the local team.

The CNMI has been sending delegates to the NJFL competition since 2000 in collaboration with the National Forensic League board and the private and public school system.

HOUSE

From Page 1

partment of Finance had informed the committee that the projected revenue for FY 2010 will remain the same.

In yesterday's session, Yumul amended his resolution to reflect an additional government obligation of \$1.69 million to represent the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax that Superior Court Judge Kenneth Govendo ordered the Department of Finance to pay the Retirement Fund starting August 2009.

House members expect the administration to provide any revised revenue projection for FY 2010 today.

They also want an update on the revenue collection for FY 2009 as of the end of the third quarter yesterday, and revised anticipated revenue between today and the end of the current fiscal year on Sept. 30.

"We should have a deficit reduction plan so this House concurrent resolution should be amended," Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) said yesterday morning during the session.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) called for a recess at noon and the session resumed at 2:30pm yesterday as Yumul consulted with legal counsel on the concurrent resolution.

When the House went back to session in the afternoon, Yumul proposed an amended concurrent resolution.

However, Vice Speaker Joe Deleon

Guerrero (R-Saipan) proposed to strike a new section inserted by Yumul. The five-line paragraph talks about the court ruling on the Retirement Fund that orders Finance to pay the Fund the hotel occupancy tax and alcoholic beverage container tax that the government has been suspending for years.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) offered a floor amendment that members passed yesterday afternoon. Her amendment urges the governor to submit a report as soon as possible on any amendments or changes to the budget, including actual revenues and expenditures this fiscal year, any policy changes since the April 1 submission of the budget proposal, and other significant factors affecting the FY 2010 budget.

Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) said law-

makers should consider that given actual revenue collection, the administration's proposed budget is inflated, while Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said it is the responsibility of the Finance Department to certify the revenue projections.

"Let's not second guess what they [Finance] gave us. Our job here is to take a look at it and pass it," said Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan).

Earlier, Sen. Maria "Frica" T. Panigelan said the government is expected to have an additional \$4.1 million deficit for FY 2009 because the Marianas Public Land Trust will not be giving to the general fund the resource listed as "recovered interest," contrary to the Fitial administration's budget submission.

This deficit is on top of the \$10 million to \$12 million in over-expense projected by the administration for FY 2009, as Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos had said.

House members asked Yumul whether this was factored in the FY 2010 budget. Yumul said no.

Other House members also asked whether the significant drop in expected Compact Impact funding was taken into consideration.

During a news briefing last week, Inos said the drop in Compact Impact funding as well as medical referral expenses will be cushioned by federal stimulus funding.

■ ■ ■

The resolution is House Concurrent Resolution 16-4 HD2.

OVER

From Page 1

before June 2009, but IT&E yesterday asked for patience or another six to 12 months to make the distribution as it grapples with the stock market conditions, among other things.

Larry Knecht, IT&E executive vice president, yesterday said the company is committed to distribute the pension payouts.

"Everybody will receive what they're entitled to, former or current employees. It's just a matter of when. It will depend on the market condition, and approval from proper authorities... We just ask for patience. It may be

paid within the next six to 12 months," Knecht told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said market conditions resulted in a 10 percent difference in the value of the plan asset, coupled with other economic factors affecting IT&E.

"No one is harmed here," he said.

Each eligible former MTC employee is expected to receive between \$5,000 and \$7,000, he said.

Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (Cov-Saipan) yesterday said MTC had earlier asked for an extension for the payment, from March 22, 2008 to June 2009.

"It is now June 30, 2009 and we have not heard of any word from MTC or PTI," Dela Cruz said in an interview. PTI is the former name of IT&E.

Dela Cruz, in a June 30 letter ad-

dressed to Knecht, said "most, if not all of these recipients who are still alive are very frustrated and have become very impatient under these circumstances."

'Conflict of interest'

Knecht said Dela Cruz has a conflict-of-interest on the issue of pension payouts because he's a former MTC employee eligible to receive payment.

Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said while he is a former MTC employee, he is only looking after the welfare of his former colleagues.

"I want to be very clear about this. I'm not looking forward to my own pension payment, but for the interest of other former employees. Some of them already passed away, some of them are sick,

some of them want to move off island. Those who are still living are looking forward to this payment," he said.

Dela Cruz said while he does not want to put a spotlight on any company, the frustration expressed to him by former MTC employees made him remind MTC about its obligation. He also gave copies of his letter to members of the House for yesterday's session.

In his two-page letter, Dela Cruz said that during the 15th Legislature, lawmakers decreased the franchise fee from 2 percent to a mere 0.75 percent, which they felt was commensurate with other jurisdictions such as Guam.

"Let me explain that as a business model and community player, you owe it to the community. All the former em-

ployees of MTC are a part of this community and only want to have this matter settled once and for all. Again, they only ask for the immediate payout of their pension," Dela Cruz told Knecht.

Knecht said were it not for IT&E's voluntary termination of the pension plan to move them to a 401k plan, employees like Dela Cruz may not be eligible to receive anything.

Dela Cruz said he will introduce a House resolution demanding the pension payout be made immediately to deserving retired MTC employees.

"I hope that this matter can be put to rest prior to my taking action as stated above, but this an only happen if you or the company does its part," said Dela Cruz.

its audit history.

Sablan vowed to continue to help PSS and the board in exploring more federal assistance for CNMI education.

He said his office in Washington, D.C. is working on a number of opportunities for CNMI students but he refused to elaborate, citing the preliminary nature of the discussions.

PSS stands to receive \$32.3 million as its share in the \$268 million state fiscal stabilization funds appropriated to outlying areas.

PSS also intends to use \$12 million of these funds for the repair, renovation and modernization of the 20 public schools. Based on PSS estimates, this will create 206 construction jobs.

PSS

From Page 1

The positions were eliminated in the last three years because of budget cuts.

Of the 111 teacher and counselor positions, PSS said that 37 are for its growing career and technological education teacher positions to help meet the demand for skilled technicians in the Commonwealth.

The restoration, PSS officials said, will help its most crowded schools lower their class sizes. Public schools currently have an average teacher-to-student ratio of 23:1. Smaller class sizes will enable teachers to have more direct contact time with individual students.

PSS said it will maintain these teacher positions after the stabilization funds expire in September 2011 through budget reductions achieved by making schools more energy efficient.

PSS stands to receive \$6.4 million in grants for alternative energy projects using wind and solar power in schools. It projects \$2 million savings in energy costs by 2012. That savings will then be used to pay for most of the teacher positions restored through the stimulus funds.

In a special meeting of the Board of Education yesterday, PSS officials said the restoration of several positions would also help PSS meet its three student achievement goals: for 80 percent of its students to read at their grade

level by 2008-2009; for students to score on average at the 50th percentile or higher on the SAT 10 complete battery by 2010; and for 90 percent of students to score at proficient or above on standards-based assessments by 2014.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh reported to the board yesterday that all 111 restored positions were based on the number of per school's need for both teachers and counselors.

"Our 20 school principals have been successful in recruiting for these positions...and the 111 are based on what our schools' needs are," Thornburgh said.

However, he emphasized that these positions require highly qualified per-

sonnel as a condition to using the federal money to hire and restore personnel.

A teacher is deemed highly qualified based on degree, certification, and compliance with the rigorous Praxis tests.

CNMI Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan joined yesterday's board meeting to inform the board that PSS will start getting part of the stimulus funds before August, in time for the opening of new school year.

"You will start getting these monies before August and CNMI-PSS will probably be the first from the outlying areas to get the stimulus fund," Sablan told the board.

He lauded PSS' record for not being a high-risk grantee, as demonstrated by

Aggreko to receive its \$6M total payment this week

Why some alien workers will still be referred to small claims court

Department of Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat has explained why many alien workers will still be referred to small claims court despite recent Labor policy on bond claims.

Kaipat told *Saipan Tribune* that the first situation is when the worker either worked illegally or the employer never supplied a bond and Labor denied the application to hire the worker.

"Workers may have continued working while an application is being submitted or is pending at the department so they are entitled to wages. But if no bond is supplied, then there is nothing to back the employer's obligation to pay these wages," she said.

The second situation is when there is a bond, but the worker's claim is covered only partially by the bond.

Kaipat said this usually happens when the worker did not make the claim at Labor until his or her claim or his or her permit expired, even though the employer's failure to pay wages occurred many months before.

Most labor bonds, Kaipat said, assume that claims are made promptly and cover only

three months' wages.

"So, even if the bonding company paid the award, it would not cover the full amount and the worker would have to go to small claims court to get the rest from the employer," she said.

The last situation is when there is bond, but the bond does not cover the award at all.

Bonds typically cover the employer's obligations for wages, medical expenses, and repatriations.

Kaipat said if the award involves some other subject matter, then the bond would not cover it.

"In these cases, the workers will have to go to small claims and proceed against the employer to enforce the award," she pointed out.

Labor has recently been notifying alien workers with administrative awards to report to the Labor Hearing Office to register their bond claims.

Labor was required to change its policy of referring alien workers with administrative awards to the small claims court because of a Superior Court ruling that stated that it is Labor's job to enforce these claims. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be able to pay Aggreko International the full amount of some \$6 million for the rental of power generators this week, two months ahead of the expiration of Aggreko's contract with CUC on Sept. 12.

CUC pays Aggreko a little over \$500,000 a month for the rental of power generators while CUC repairs its engines after a series of rolling blackouts last year.

Aggreko has commissioned approximately 15 megawatts of temporary, diesel-fired power generators that meant the difference between rolling blackouts and generally continuous electric service to CUC customers.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. yesterday said CUC

is current with its payments to Aggreko.

The billing due to Aggreko is for the period ending on July 16, for which CUC expects to pay this week, he said.

In August 2008, CUC made a three-month deposit to Aggreko, which covered the first month's billing in September 2008, as well as the last two months of the contract in August and September 2009, Reyes said.

Extended emergency declaration

Reyes also said the governor extended anew his emergency declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC yesterday, and was transmitted to the Legislature. A copy of the declaration has yet to be obtained as of late yesterday afternoon.

The governor first declared a

state of emergency for CUC in August 2008. He has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had said CUC will not renew its contract with Aggreko when it expires in September. June 13 was the deadline for CUC to notify Aggreko if the contract will not be renewed.

The governor, along with CUC executive director Tony Muña and CUC deputy director Wallon Young, earlier said CUC will be able to produce 55 megawatts in September and at the same time will have a reserve of 15 MW.

The capacity is expected to increase to 61 MW in October plus 22 MW in reserve capacity.

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WHO, SPC help Fiji combat spread of H1N1

The World Health Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community are supporting Fiji's response to the H1N1 pandemic, with financial help from Australia and New Zealand.

During the past two weeks, WHO donated 157,000 cap-

sules of Tamiflu to Fiji. Approximately 10,000 additional capsules have also been sent to Fiji by SPC.

These supplies provide Fiji with enough antiviral medication to treat approximately 2 percent of its population.

Pandemic H1N1 influenza is a mild illness in most persons; WHO recommends giving Tamiflu only to patients with risk factors for severe influenza.

For protection of health care workers taking care of patients with severe influenza cases,

both agencies are also donating a large amount of personal protective equipment:

- Surgical masks (WHO provided 48,000; SPC will provide 370,000);

- Latex examination gloves (WHO will provide 82,000; SPC 740,000)

- Aprons/gowns (WHO 41,000; SPC 77,000)

- Alcohol-based hand disinfectant (WHO 400 liters; SPC 2,500 liters).

These donations were made possible with support from the Australian and New Zealand government agencies for international development, and Roche, the manufacturer of Tamiflu.

Fiji is the first Pacific country to have received the masks, but supplies are currently being shipped to 11 other Pacific Island countries and territories: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

WHO helped Fiji build a state-of-the-art laboratory in Tamavua to diagnose influenza, including the new H1N1 illness.

The illness is spreading rapidly in countries such as Australia and New Zealand. Although the Fiji Islands government is taking the appropriate measures to slow the spread of the illness, it is expected that more cases will appear in Fiji in the coming days and weeks. (SPC)

BLAME IT ON THE RAIN

The rainy weather the past few days causes flooding in flood-prone areas on Saipan like this one along Beach Road in Garapan. The National Weather Service on Guam yesterday forecasts partly sunny, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms this morning, and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beautify CNMI meeting set

The Beautify CNMI monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2, 2009, at 3:30pm, at the DEQ Conference Room.

The agenda will include the various committee reports, the Bridge Capital donation, PAWS WARS, PIC fundraiser, Champion and Steward Awards, and other businesses. (PR)

LISS offers free summer school

The Ladera International School of Saipan will offer free summer school programs for local resident students.

The program, which will cover grades 1 to 11, will run from July 6 to 31, 2009, Mondays to Fridays except holidays, from 7:30am to 2:20pm. Lunch will be \$3 per person per day or parents may choose to bring lunch from home.

Participants must be local residents with valid U.S. status, must be able to be on time for classes, must have own transportation to and from home and school, and must register with the school's administrative office for acceptance and confirmation.

Slots are limited for this free summer program. Contact Helen or Hazel at 288-2006 to inquire or confirm your space for your child. (LISS)

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be having its next general membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena II Room today, July 1. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for the public. Speaking to us at the meeting will be the new Zoning administrator, Victor Barrett, and Zoning board chair Henry Hofschneider. (SCC)

DEQ brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Aboni Beach in Garapan July 11, 2009.

Those who would like to volunteer should meet with the group at 8am behind the Mobil gas station/Mc Donald's restaurant.

Volunteers will split into groups, cleaning north and south of Aboni Beach until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

US Navy to hold training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, GUAM—The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 8am to 6pm on June 30 to July 1.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office's Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (PR)

MCS to host alumni dinner fundraiser

The officers for school year 2008-2009 of the Mount Carmel School Parent Teacher Organization, in cooperation with Mount Carmel School, will be hosting an MCS Alumni Dinner on July 24, 2009 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The event aims to raise funds to help the ongoing efforts to refurbish the aging school gymnasium/cafeteria. The event will be from 6pm to 10pm and will host various speakers and slide presentations.

Tickets, which are \$50 per person, are now on sale at the Mount Carmel School business office and from MCS PTO board officers. All check and money order payments should be made payable to Mount Carmel School. For more information, contact the MCS PTO Board Officers at e-mail address mcspto@ yahoo.com, or call the MCS business office and leave your contact information. (PR)

Notice to Manta Ray cadets

Attention to Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion cadets: We are asking for your support to join in the 4th of July parade. You can pick up your parent consent form in room B101. There will be a meeting on July 3, 2009, for those Manta Ray cadets that will be joining this event. (PR)

NMI substance abuse monitoring group readies charter

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI-State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup charter is now ready for implementation by its member agencies in a bid to improve the quality and quantity of information available to state and local substance abuse prevention programs and activities.

Community Guidance Center director Josephine Sablan, who is also the CNMI-SEOW project director, said the charter was drafted to serve as an agreement among the working groups.

She said this would ensure that working group members would each do their part in providing data.

The workgroup management core consists of representatives from the CGC, the departments of Public Health, Public Safety, Commerce, Finance, and Community and Cultural Affairs; Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Public School System, Division of Customs, Legislature, Northern Marianas College, and the Division of Youth Services.

One of the workgroup's main purposes is to create a mechanism that would systematically collect, analyze, report, and disseminate with improved accuracy and comprehensiveness information about the substance abuse situation in the CNMI.

The information will be used to generate a broader awareness within the community of the physical, mental, economic, and social burdens caused by substance abuse. It also aims to improve policy-making through the Legislature.

Created in July 2007, the CNMI workgroup just came up with its charter this year.

The charter defines its objectives, activities, management personnel, deliverables, moni-

toring methods, and other duties and responsibilities.

The working group held its

last meeting on Friday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa where representatives of the different

member agencies discussed the challenges they face in gathering data.

At the meeting, Sablan set the dates of the quarterly progress report: first (July 2009), second

(October 2009), third (January 2010) and fourth (April 2010).

Sablan said they are now readying to create a database as a main component of the monitoring system.



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MELL SENTOSA	022E	6/20 Sat	6/18 Thu	6/18 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/13 Sat	6/26 Fri	6/22 Mon	6/21 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/22 Mon	6/26 Fri	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	015E	6/27 Sat	6/25 Thu	6/25 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/20 Sat	7/3 Fri	6/29 Mon	6/28 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/29 Mon	7/3 Fri	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/4 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/2 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/27 Sat	7/10 Fri	7/6 Mon	7/5 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/10 Fri	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/11 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/9 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/4 Sat	7/17 Fri	7/13 Mon	7/12 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/13 Mon	7/17 Fri	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	7/18 Sat	7/16 Thu	7/16 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/11 Sat	7/24 Fri	7/20 Mon	7/19 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/20 Mon	7/24 Fri	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
		Guam		Guam	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
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Free lecture on Article 12 on July 7

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting the public to a lecture titled "Article 12, Claims to Culture and Political Rights: the Race vs. Political Identity Dilemma" at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Tuesday, July 7, at 6pm.

In her lecture, visiting law professor Rose Cuisin Villazor will discuss the legal, historical and cultural relationships between Article 12 and other "blood quantum property laws" in American Samoa, Hawaii and other jurisdictions and situate them in constitutional jurisprudence.

The lecture is based in part on an article that Villazor published in the *California Law Review* and explains the ways in which blood quantum laws are examined under contemporary equal protection doctrine. In particular, Villazor will discuss the U.S. Supreme Court's approach to

analyzing blood quantum laws under either a race or political constitutional paradigm.

This binary framework, she contends, fails to address competing yet equally important issues of equality, liberty and political rights that relate to land ownership in formerly colonized territories. Accordingly, she will consider whether an examination of Article 12 under due process analysis would better attend to various conflicting claims in post-colonial territories.

Villazor, a former Saipan resident and 1991 graduate of Mt. Carmel High School, is an associate professor of Law at Hofstra University Law School. She received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law and her LL.M. from the Columbia University School of Law.

The lecture is a part of the NMI Council for the Humanities



Villazor

continuing efforts to provide the community with information on Article 12 of the CNMI's Constitution from a variety of viewpoints. Additional information about the lecture may be obtained from Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

Fourth of July

Liberation Day

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 1, 1999

15 days deportation period gets Senate OK

A legislation reducing to 15 days the time provided to non-resident workers to secure employment on the island passed the Senate yesterday, defeating in effect an initial drastic measure that will seek only three days before they can be deported by the government. Senate Bill 11-150, offered by Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, will amend existing regulations under Public Law 11-6 or the hiring moratorium, which allows guest workers up to 45 days to look for new employer once their job contract expires. Calling this requirement as "excessive," the bill's proponent said the amendment would address mounting problems brought about by having a lot of alien workers with expired contracts who choose to remain in the CNMI despite the absence of new jobs.

CPA imposes \$1 parking fee at airport

Beginning today, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will be charging \$1 per hour to vehicle owners who will use the parking lot at the Saipan International Airport as part of its revenue generating measure. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said a booth, manned by trained employees of the ports authority, will be set up and operated 24 hours every day. But he said CPA employees are exempt provided that they have the official CPA badge. However, Salas warned employees of the ports authority against abusing this privilege such as using their badge to bring out a friend or relative's car from the parking lot or issuing badge to another person.

July 1, 2002

4 governors in one week

History happened last Friday but for those more attuned to the political workings of the CNMI, that day went by with hardly a ripple in the political fabric of the Commonwealth. In a span of three days starting Wednesday, the Commonwealth went through several leadership changes, with Friday officially marking the first time ever that somebody from Tinian occupied the highest executive post of the islands. Senate Vice President Jose Dela Cruz became acting Governor for one day, when then acting governor Paul A. Manglona had to go to Guam Friday on official business. What made the incident even more interesting was that Dela Cruz is a Democrat, unlike the top three CNMI officials—Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente and Senate President Manglona—who are all from the Republican Party.

Guam gov withdraws opposition to Verizon sale

Guam Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez has withdrawn his opposition to the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Pacific Telecom Inc. consortium, saying he has determined that it is not in the public interest to oppose the sale. Gutierrez made known this decision through a petition he submitted to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. dated June 26-nine days after he first submitted a petition opposing the sale.

July 1, 2003

Leadership open to discussion

The Senate leadership is amenable to the minority members' clamor that their three demands be placed on the session agenda, if this is what it would take to get the wayward senators to show up at the next session. This was essentially the message relayed yesterday by Senate president Paul A. Manglona and Senate vice president Jose M. Dela Cruz in an interview with the media. Manglona said the upper house's business does not revolve solely on the confirmation of Attorney General nominee Pamela Brown—an action that minority senators have been trying to put off pending the return of Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez, who is in California until mid-July.

Travel ban vs China to be lifted soon

If no new cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome crops up in China, then the CNMI government will lift its travel restriction on people coming from that country by July 11. This was disclosed by Press Secretary Peter Callaghan, who said that, with the World Health Organization removing China from its SARS-affected areas on June 24, the CNMI government is just waiting for the virus's incubation period to end before it lifts its entry ban on travelers from China. However, Taiwan and Toronto are still considered by the WHO as active areas so they are still on the list and the CNMI's travel restrictions still apply to travelers coming from these two areas, Callaghan added.

Navy invites Guam community to 4th of July bash

SANTA RITA, Guam—The commander of the Joint Region Marianas is inviting the public to the Navy's annual Independence Day celebration.

The event, titled "Freedom Rocks" and coordinated by Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation, will be held July 4, 4pm-9pm at Polaris Point.

Various entertainments have been planned, including musical performances by local bands Joy Ride at 4pm and Matala at 6:45pm. There will also be games, contests and inflatable jumpers for the kids. Food and beverages will be on sale.

The fireworks display will kick off at 8pm.

The following items are prohibited: weapons, personal fireworks, grills, coolers, glass containers, outside alcohol, pets, rollerblades, skateboards, and rollerskates. No personal watercraft will be allowed in the waters near Polaris Point.

The following items are allowed: backpacks, diaper bags, camera bags, video and photo cameras, purses, umbrellas, towels, and folding chairs.

All guests and their property are subject to search. In addition, the public is reminded that the alcohol drinking age on the Naval installation is 21. (USN)

Water outage in Chalan Piao, CK, Susupe tomorrow

There will be a nine-hour water outage Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe tomorrow, July 2, 2009, when a Water Task Force contractor installs a 12" main valve at the Isley Reservoir.

The water outage, which will last from 7:30am to 4:30pm,

will affect customers residing from the Chalan Piao Mobil gas station streetlight, Beach Road, to Marianas High School street light and along Texas Road.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said this work is necessary to protect treated stored water and provide improved

overall water quality for public consumption. It will also enable the Water Division to comply with a court order that requires CUC to correct major sanitary deficiencies seen during storage tanks inspections.

Water service will be restored to affected customers as soon as

the work is complete.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water, especially during this period. Rainwater catchments systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed to re-

place to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks.

For more information, contact Bruce Megarr, deputy director for Water & Wastewater Operations, at 235-7025 through 235-7023 Ext. 172 or Alan Lebria, acting Water & Wastewater operations manager at Ext. 152. (CUC)

Vessel allegedly violates Hawaii marine monument

HONOLULU—The crew of a Honolulu-based fishing vessel returned to port Saturday after its voyage was cut short by law enforcement personnel with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Coast Guard because of allegations of illegal fishing in protected waters of the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument.

An air crew aboard a U.S. Coast Guard C-130 long-range search plane from Air Station Barbers Point twice documented the U.S.-flagged vessel fishing in a "special preservation area" inside the monument on Monday, June 15.

The air crew spotted the bottom fish vessel at midday and shot video and still photos that show the fishing vessel crew hauling its lines out of the water and abruptly getting underway. The air crew then flew over the horizon out of sight

and returned to find the fishing vessel crew had put its lines back in the water and allegedly had resumed fishing.

After it was informed by the Coast Guard of the vessel's activities, NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement coordinated with the air crew to immediately end the fishing trip and directed the vessel back to Honolulu for boarding and further investigation.

The air crew communicated the order with the master of the fishing vessel via VHF marine band radio. The fishing vessel crew arrived in Honolulu Saturday morning after a five-day transit.

The monument falls within the 14th Coast Guard District's area of responsibility and is one of the most remote areas of the world. There are approximately



Picture shows a frame grab of the bottom fish vessel with its crew hauling its lines out of the water and getting underway.

60 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and contractors at Midway and a handful of State of Hawaii and USFWS scientists on other small islands,

but the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are mostly uninhabited.

Crews aboard Coast Guard cutters and aircraft conduct routine enforcement and surveil-

lance patrols of the monument while working closely with partner agencies in order to enforce monument regulations and laws.

The Coast Guard is the primary agency responsible for at-sea enforcement of Federal fisheries laws, but we work very closely with our federal and state partners in order to be successful," said Lt. Cmdr. Jay Caputo, the 14th Coast Guard District's fisheries enforcement officer.

The monument includes all waters within 50 miles of the islands, reefs and atolls of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

"Our partnerships with NOAA, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State are paramount in our ability to enforce the laws in the remote waters of Papahanaumokuakea. It is very much a joint effort," said Caputo. (USCG)

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Volume XIX, Issue No. 156

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

Pandemic flu: There's still no reason to panic

With cases numbering more than 59,000 across 110 countries, Margaret Chan of the World Health Organization has declared a swine flu pandemic. "The world is moving into the early days of its first influenza pandemic in the 21st century," Dr. Chan said from Geneva, where she is the WHO's director general. "The virus is now unstoppable." Chilling words, but no cause for panic.

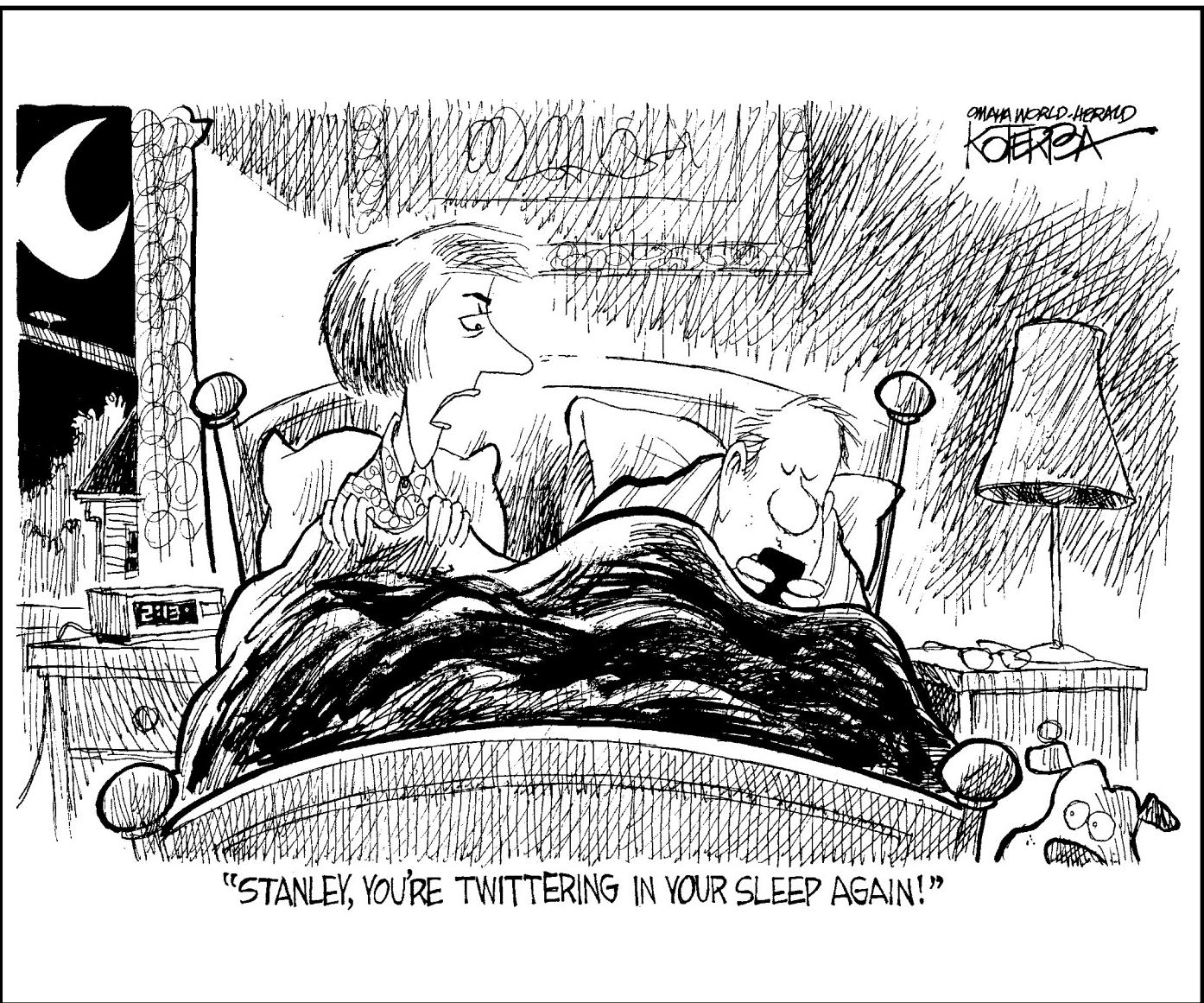
Here are some things to keep in mind. The WHO Phase 6 designation, the highest alert for the global organization, is a recognition of the spread of the H1N1 virus, not the severity of the pandemic. Dr. Chan described the danger posed by swine flu as "moderate." The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has characterized the flu cases in this country as "less severe" than thought. So far, there have been 263 deaths worldwide, including 87 in the United States.

According to the WHO, seasonal flu kills 250,000 to 500,000 people globally. In the United States, there are about 36,000 deaths a year. The 1968 Hong Kong flu pandemic killed 1 million people worldwide.

The Obama administration has taken the proper approach from the outset. It has urged Americans to take precautions (stay home if you're sick, cover your sneezes, wash your hands) while preparing for the possibility that this new form of swine flu could mutate into something more virulent. Antiviral medication has been moved from federal stockpiles to the states. Vaccine development has begun. There are discussions with state and local authorities to plan for an immunization campaign should the need arise.

Pandemics are serious, and there's no telling how this new strain of swine flu might change. All eyes are on the Southern Hemisphere, where it's winter and flu season is just beginning. Health authorities should remain vigilant and continue to keep the public informed. But the pandemic declaration is no reason to raid the drugstore for Tamiflu.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



The mullahs must go

Since Iran's controversial and disputed election, President Barack Obama has been noticeably restrained in his reaction. He has flashed his empathy, saying on Tuesday that he was "appalled and outraged" by the regime's brutality, but he has been equally emphatic about not being perceived as meddling in Iran's internal affairs. Despite increasing political heat, even from Democrats and the usually adulatory U.S. media, Obama persists in his low-key approach, clinging to emotive generalizations.

But it is the president's underlying policies that are wrong, not just his rhetoric. Saying that he does not want the "debate" inside Iran to be about the United States is disingenuous at best. Obama's real objective is to launch negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, in the belief that he can talk Iran out of its 20-year effort to acquire deliverable nuclear weapons. He said it during the 2008 campaign, during his inaugural address and repeatedly thereafter.

Viewed in the light of this near-religious obsession with negotiation, Obama's reticence is entirely understandable: He does not want to jeopardize the chance to sit with the likes of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

In fact, everything we know about the regime indicates that Iran, and the Revolutionary Guard in particular, will never voluntarily give up its nuclear program, so Obama's policy is doomed to failure. (Inevitably, of course, if negotiations start, Obama would change the definition of success to include accepting a "peaceful" Iranian uranium-enrichment program, which means Tehran would retain its "breakout" capability to quickly produce nuclear weapons—but exploring this further Obama failure has to wait for another day.)

Accordingly, it is Obama's policy errors, not his rhetorical ones, that should be opposed. Rhetoric itself is not policy but only the adjunct of policy, albeit often an important one. Obama's reticence reflects his larger misjudgment—the dangerous misconception that there is a negotiated solution to Iran's nuclear threat that can satisfy both Iran and the United States.

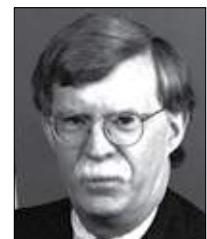
Pursuing that objective is perilous for America, its allies and its friends—in Europe, Israel and the Arab world alike. Moreover, Obama rarely mentions Iran's continuing role as the world's central banker for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, yet this is another threat that negotiation will not eliminate.

Obama's policy, and that of the United States, should be the overthrow of the Islamic revolution of 1979. The massive resistance to the June 12 elections is just another fact supporting that conclusion.

The Tehran regime—not just Ahmadinejad but the entire Islamic revolution superstructure—is enormously unpopular for three major reasons.

By JOHN R. BOLTON

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and author of *Surrender Is Not an Option*.

First, the regime's economic mismanagement has brought the economy of a country rich in oil and natural gas to near-gridlock. Periodic but piecemeal strikes have been put down, but the prospect of a simultaneous, sustained, nationwide strike remains a potent threat.

Second, Iran's young people—two-thirds of the population is under 30—know they could have a much freer life if they could only overturn the mullahs' strict rule. The young are educated and sophisticated, and they know there are alternatives to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's "velayat-e faqih," the system of "guardianship of Islamic jurists" that imposes harsh Sharia law on Iran today.

Third, Iran is only about 50 percent Persian. Arabs, Baluchis, Azeris, Kurds and others resent the ethnic, political and religious discrimination they face constantly and have little or no love for the Islamic revolution.

Of course, these various sources of discontent are not entirely reinforcing, and are sometimes in conflict, which indicates how difficult it is for a purely internal Iranian opposition to coalesce. Had the U.S. and others over the last 30 years done more to help Iranian dissidents, overtly and covertly, we might be in a different place today. The question is whether we are prepared to do now what we should have been doing for some time.

To date at least, the Obama administration's answer remains a resounding no. Obama wants negotiations with Tehran, not regime change. Given that the Revolutionary Guard and the hard-line mullahs—and not the people—are increasingly likely to be the short-term winners of the current Battle for Iran, supporters of regime change must now make longer-term plans.

We have missed a huge opportunity because of Obama's error (and that of his predecessors), but the continuing threat of Iranian nuclear weapons and support for international terrorism make the imperative of regime change no less compelling. The Iranian people will continue their opposition no matter how inconvenient it is for Obama's hoped-for negotiations. We should support them, and not just by rhetoric.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

So you're thinking of writing a book?

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

5 tips for writing your great bestseller

It's been said that there's a book inside everyone. In other words, everyone has some story to tell, or some knowledge to share that could be put in book form and sold to entertain or enlighten the world.

Of course, many people are born gifted to be writers. Others learn along the way. Some never actually write, but tell their stories to others who then do the actual writing. However you arrive at that place, writing a book is a great exercise for a few reasons.

As a strategic business move, writing a book is a great way to create an additional stream of income, and developing a validating credential (i.e., Mary Smith, author of...), which can go a long way to boosting your sales, security and prosperity.

Book income can be passive and residual. In other words, you write a book once, and it can sell for years in the future. (The first book I wrote in 1992 still sells today having had only one revision in all that time!)

Of course, writing is itself a passion which not everyone shares. You may have a sculptor's eye, or a singer's voice or a teacher's passion living inside you. However, with the right attitude, a few smart tips, and perhaps a little help, anyone can at least get started down the road to writing and create a new world of possibilities for themselves and their families.

1. Write about your passion.

This one may seem obvious, but it will be infinitely more successful for you to write about something for which you have a passion. Health, child rearing, flowers, dogs, politics, your hobbies, your pet peeves, you name it. As long as it's something you feel strongly about, you'll have a much better chance of sustaining the energy and commitment needed to see the project through to completion. (see *Turn Your Passion Into Profit* to learn how to discover your passion.)

2. Start anywhere.

I've found that the greatest misconception people have who are faced with the prospect of writing a book is the idea that a book is written from the beginning to the end. In other words, people believe that a book is written the same way it is read: beginning with page 1, then page 2, then page 3, and so on.

In last week's column, we identified the "fear of not having the answer" as the greatest hindrance to public speaking. I believe "the myth of sequential creation" is a similar obstacle to successful authorship. So pay attention.

When you get that initial inspiration or idea to write your book, simply start writing something, anything, and start getting the words out from your head, heart or higher self and onto the written page or screen. You're opening up a channel from the source of your inspiration, and there's no guarantee that the words will come in any predetermined order. Sometimes when an idea for a book hits me, I find myself writing the final line of the book first. Sometimes it starts with the title. As the weeks progress, I may get ideas for sections of chapters anywhere from the first page to the last.

The beauty of the technology you have at your disposal is that once you have all the ideas and thoughts to be included in your book out into your word processing file, you can then rearrange, cut, copy, paste, edit and organize those ideas, sections, paragraphs, chapters and pages into the best order to tell your story or make your point.

It may help to think about what many writers and creative people come to realize during their careers: that the act of creation occurs on a higher conscious level, and that, as writers, they are simply channels for the story that is being told or the information being transmitted from that higher source. Many writers (especially writ-

ers of fiction) will tell you that the characters they write about take on a life of their own, and actually write the book themselves! Your job is to listen carefully, take good notes, and get out of the way! Don't worry about editing, grammar, or sequence in the beginning as you open up yourself to being a channel and become familiar with the process.

3. Stop...please stop!

Interestingly enough, the second greatest challenge to writing your book (perhaps even more important than knowing where to start) is knowing where to stop!

Non-fiction writers suffer from wanting to put too much information. Fiction writers always feel there's more of the story to tell, or better ways to tell it. Both types of writers want their book to be "perfect" before they approve its release.

I've worked with artists and writers who suffer from this "malady of perfection" who've ended up working on their music or books for months and months, missing deadlines, losing momentum and eventually missing the golden opportunity because they were too fixated on getting everything just right. Don't let that happen to you.

My wish for you is that as you make your way through the creative process and learn to listen to your muse, that his or her little voice will whisper to you at the appropriate time, "It's ready."

If that doesn't happen, then remember this: the key to making money with any product is in its completion, not its perfection. Now, I'm not saying that you should offer a shoddy product to the world. I'm saying that reprints, 2nd editions, edits and updates can address any omissions, deletions and typographical errors that you need to make and fix. Those little errors—or the fear that they exist somewhere overlooked—shouldn't stop you from getting your product out, making sales and getting feedback for your creation. This will be especially feasible since—if you take my advice—you'll be using "print-on-demand" book manufacturers so you won't have to print up thousands of copies initially with those potential errors.

I have a trick that I use which helps me set a deadline—a real deadline—for my books' completion. How? I start selling copies of my book before it's even done! That's right! Once I get an idea, I design the cover, advertise it online, and start taking real money from real people who I don't know (in other words, not friends and family) with the promise that the book will be finished by a certain date. Knowing that there are real people all over the world who are expecting a finished book (and who could potentially get pretty nasty if that promise is broken) keeps me working toward what I consider a real deadline. (*Warning: This technique is not for the fainthearted or the habitual procrastinator!*)

4. Tell me, 'Why?'

This is a writing technique I've used for every one of my non-fiction books that helps me stay on target, focused and also lets me know when the book is ready to be unveiled. Once I have a vague idea of what the topic of the book is going to be, I force myself to write a section titled "Why I Wrote this Book."

"I wrote this book because I know some secrets to raising kids that others don't know. I've raised 500 children who've all gone on to become Nobel Peace Prize winners, and I'm going to show you step-by-step everything I've done, and reveal all my secrets so you can do the same."

You may have several reasons for writing your book. With your goals in mind as you write, you'll be able to know if you're straying from your intention and purpose, and keep the book delivering what you promise.

Starting with your "Why" is a great way to begin a book.

5. Create a mock-up of your book.

Finally, this tip is especially powerful for first-time authors. Remember, at some point in the future, you're going to say to someone, "This is my book." And you're going to hand it to them, proudly. This future book will be a real object in our physical universe.

All designers, architects, sculptors will typically create a scale model of their intended creation. You should do the same by creating a physical prototype of your book.

Decide what physical size and shape you want your book to be.

or relocate to Guam or Houston? Obviously, this is just temporary, since dates have been advertised in the local papers.

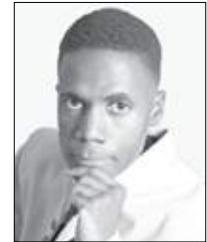
I seriously doubt that they will ever expand in the CNMI. In 1983, there were over 400 employees on Saipan alone. Saipan was the headquarters for Continental/Micronesia, with Accounting, Cargo, Mechanics, Ramp and Customer Service Agents, totaling over 400 employees with travel and other

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Is it going to be 5.5" x 8.5", 6" x 9"? How thick will it be? Take a trip to your bookshelf, or the local bookstore or library and simply start browsing. Find a book that's the same size and thickness you envision or wish your book to be. Buy it or borrow it. Then, by hand or using a computer graphics program, create a mock-up front and back cover and spine of your book. (Your artwork doesn't have to be perfect, but it should at least have the title and your name on it) Then, tape that mock-up cover over and around the bought or borrowed book.

You now have a physical representation—a prototype—of your book that you can walk around with, hold in your hands, put on your shelf, keep on your desk as you write and live and experience the reality of its eventual completion. It's a powerful exercise in visualization that will bring your book more quickly into reality. And it works for just about any product, invention, or goal you have in life!

A few more tips:

In the process of coaching someone through the book-writing process, there are hundreds of tips and strategies which will be unique to each person.

■ Start with a working title. You can always change it later as the book develops.

■ Do a little bit each day. You'll be surprised how quickly the words add up.

■ Invest in a voice recorder. Your lifestyle or day-to-day activities may make it hard to write on a computer every day. If possible, get a handheld/pocket digital voice recorder and record your thoughts and transcribe them (or have someone do it for you) later. Who knows, this might also be the beginning of the audio version of your book!

However you actually accomplish it, it's my belief that just about anyone can and should write a book. It doesn't even have to be published, but the experience of getting your thoughts down can be therapeutic and cathartic in and of itself. The key is to base it on something you feel strongly about and committed to, find the reason why your story or expertise needs to be shared with the world, get started without initial regard to the perfection of the content, do something every day to make the book real, and focus on completion! You can do it! See you on Oprah!

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Letters to the Editor

A new airline

In reference to the article "Continental Airlines to resume Japan-Saipan flight from July to September 2009." Sweet! Question to Charles Duncan, Continental Airlines: Do you also plan to bring back all former employees that Continental forced to either retired

benefits. Today, zero employees, not even one! How sad for our people.

What the CNMI needs is a new airline, an airline company that cares about our people and wants to call the CNMI its home.

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

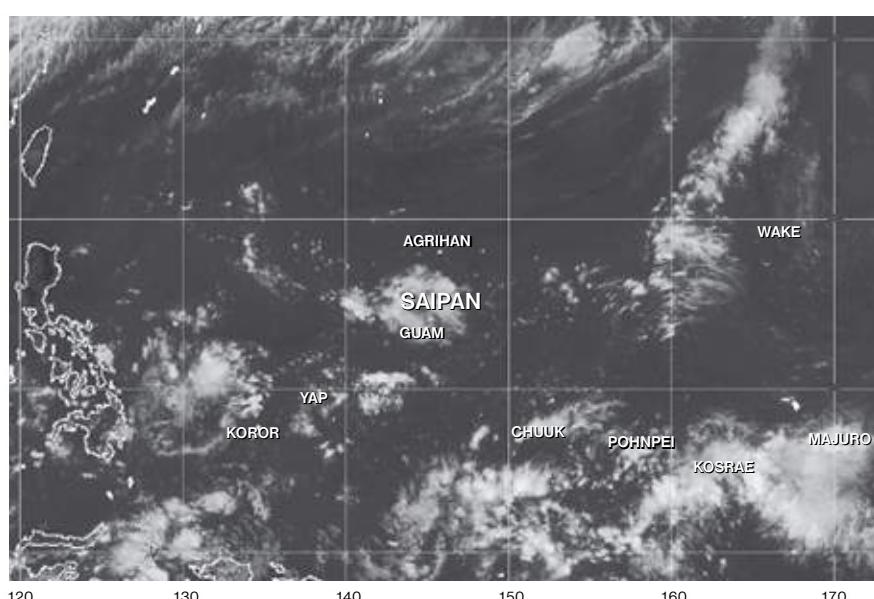
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58 ▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲99 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼61
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲59 ▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Thunderstorms	▲75 ▼66
Osaka	Showers	▲80 ▼67
Paris	Cloudy	▲88 ▼68
Pusan	Cloudy	▲83 ▼67
Rome	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲89 ▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73 ▼57
Seoul	Cloudy	▲82 ▼66
Tokyo	Showers	▲75 ▼68
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
2:05 AM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
9:31 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet
4:18 PM Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
8:49 PM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs from north of 25N163E southwestward to 15N160E then continues westward as a shearline through Saipan and Tinian then arcs northwestward to end at about 17N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 50 miles of a line running from 25N164E to 18N159E northwest and west of Wake Island and within 125 miles of a line running from 15N147E to 15N139E through Tinian and Saipan. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Koror between 9N and 12N from 131E to 133E. Trade-wind convergence is generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south and southeast of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 145E to 153E between 7N and 8N from 152E to 154E including Chuuk, between 2N and 7N from 149E to 171E including Kosrae and south of Kwajalein and east of Majuro within 60 miles of a line running from 6N172E to 6N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM	Today	1:41 PM	12:42 AM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM	Thursday	2:34 PM	1:23 AM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM	Friday	3:27 PM	2:07 AM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM	Saturday	4:21 PM	2:53 AM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM	Sunday	5:13 PM	3:42 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARAI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747.

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317 4:20am 5:10am Daily

CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily

CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via ROP

CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4,5

CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily

NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO

NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1,5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1,4,6 via KIX

OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN

OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2,3,4,5,6,7 via ICN

OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 via ICN

C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM

C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM

C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1,2,4,6,7 via GUM

C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM

OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2,4,6,7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/

Island Snapshots



DISTANCE EDUCATION

Staff members of the Northern Marianas College's Information Technology department pose for a group photo after a meeting with Jeff Weiser, third from left, and Courtney Roy, fourth from left, from the Administration for Native Americans. Staff members from the NMC Tinian and Rota campuses, shown on the television screen, also participated in the meeting to discuss the progress of "Project Connect: Inter-Island Distance Learning Network." The project aims to eventually have classes broadcasted to the different campuses in order to maximize educational opportunities for all students, and is funded through a grant from the ANA.

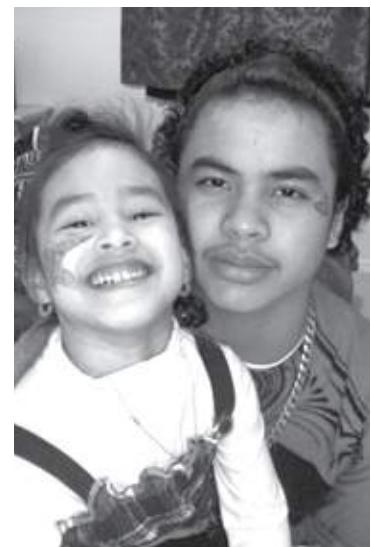
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BEAUTIFICATION SUPPORTER

Beautify CNMI's Angelo Villagomez and Cinta Kaipat present Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with a volunteer t-shirt for his three years of support for the group at the Pacific Islands Environmental Conference held last week at the Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Jun! We love and miss you! Greetings come from the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PIC DONATION

Angelo Villagomez, Katie Busenkell, and Bobbi Grizzard of PAWS accept a \$545 donation from Kieran Daly of Pacific Islands Club. PIC recently held a fundraiser to help PAWS fulfill its organizational goals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MISSION OF REMEMBRANCE

Masakazu Kawakami, president of Shikogakuen, leads the mission of remembrance and peace in Marpi during a memorial service at the Banzai Cliff Park held to pray for families and loved ones who died during World War II. Some 40 members of the Japanese religious group ended their five-day pilgrimage on Saipan Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF SALE

**UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

Francisco L. Kaipat, ("Trustor"), on or about February 21, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 26, 2001 under Document No. 01-268 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on April 9, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on Wednesday, July 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$63,454.00 the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 29th day of June, 2009.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC
 NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender, provider, and employer.

**UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Email: p.sablan@cnmicode.org • Website: www.cnmicode.org

**3rd Quarterly Council on
Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting**

Attention General Public:
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is hereby calling for the Third Quarterly Meeting to take place on July 6, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Tinian at the Tinian Mayors Conference Room. The meeting is called based upon the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003).

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Establishment of Order
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes - April 9, 2009
- VI. Council Orientation - October 9, 2009
- VII. Review and Adoption of By-Laws
- VIII. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports
 - a. Call-A-Ride
 - b. HR Committee
- IX. Executive Director Report
- X. Chair Report
- XI. DD Network Updates / Collaboration Opportunity with State Agencies
- XII. Open Discussion
- XIII. Next meeting
- XIV. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS
LICENSING BOARD**

P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Ponphei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmhclpb@gmail.com

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 3:00pm** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairperson's Report
- VI. Director's Report
- VII. Investigator's Report
- VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- IX. Old Business:
 - A. HCPLB Draft Regulations
- X. New Business:
- XI. Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New/Renewal Applications
 - B. Pending Applications
- XII. Miscellaneous Business:
- XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XIV. Announcements
- XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Ken Pierson
Acting Chair

Business

Madoff gets maximum 150 years in prison

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS	
 INDIA 18,120.00 Up 1,000.00 (5.88%)	 AUSTRALIA 3,947.800 Up 65.100 (1.68%)
 HONG KONG 18,378.73 Down 149.78 (-0.81%)	 JAKARTA 2,024.40 Down 9.316 (-0.46%)
 TOKYO 9,958.44 Up 174.97 (1.79%)	 K. LUMPUR 1,075.84 Up 0.07 (0.01%)
 MANILA 2,437.99 Down 30.06 (-1.22%)	 SINGAPORE 2,325.77 Up 8.60 (0.37%)
 SEOUL 1,390.07 Up 1.62 (0.12%)	 BANGKOK 599.90 Down 1.70 (-0.28%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 8,529.38 90.99
NASDAQ 1,844.06 0.00
S&P 927.23 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar 1.2325
British Pound 0.6021
Canadian Dollar 1.1544
Chinese Renminbi 6.8308
Euro 0.7098
Hong Kong Dollar 7.7500
Indian Rupee 47.9600
Indonesian Rupiah 10,212.5000
Japanese Yen 95.4800
Malaysian Ringgit 3.5156
New Zealand Dollar 1.5347
Philippine Peso 48.1350
Singapore Dollar 1.4475
South Korean Won 1,273.8000
Swiss Franc 1.0822
Taiwan Dollar 32.8100
Thailand Baht 34.0500

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge rejected Bernard Madoff's plea for leniency Monday, sentencing the 71-year-old swindler to spend the rest of his life in prison for an "extraordinarily evil" fraud that took a staggering toll on thousands of victims.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin cited the unprecedented nature of the multibillion-dollar fraud as he sentenced Madoff to the maximum of 150 years in prison, a term comparable only to those given in the past to terrorists, traitors and the most violent criminals. There is no parole in federal prison so Madoff will most likely die there.

"Here, the message must be sent that Mr. Madoff's crimes were extraordinarily evil and that this kind of irresponsible manipulation of the system is not merely a bloodless financial crime that takes place just on paper, but it is instead ... one that takes a staggering human toll," Chin said.

The massive Ponzi scheme



AP
Madoff victims Dominic Ambrosino and wife Ronnie Sue speak to the media in front of Manhattan federal court, Monday, June 29, 2009, in New York.

run by Madoff since at least the early 1990s demolished the life savings of thousands of people, wrecked charities and shook confidence in the U.S. financial system.

Only Madoff and an accountant accused of failing to make basic auditing checks have faced criminal charges. But a person familiar with the investigation said Monday that at

least 10 more people are likely to face federal charges by the time the probe is complete. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, wouldn't

GM seeks court approval to become 'new' company

Chrysler LLC.

Last month, objections from a group of bondholders and others dragged out for three days Chrysler's hearing on its plan to sell the bulk of itself to a group led by Italy's Fiat Group SpA.

After the Chrysler sale was approved by U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez, the bondholders and other objectors appealed it all the way up to the Supreme Court. Despite their efforts, the plan ultimately went through and the automaker emerged from bankruptcy protection

shortly thereafter.

Jack Williams, an Atlanta-based managing director at BDO consulting and a professor of Georgia State University, said that despite the much larger size of GM's case, he expects it to go much quicker than Chrysler's did.

"In the south there's an old saying: The pioneers get all the arrows," Williams said. "Chrysler was the test case for General Motors. GM's got momentum, government financing and lots of people that would like to see this happen."

Apple CEO Steve Jobs back at work few days a week

did not say exactly when Jobs returned to the office.

The state of Jobs' health and the timing of his return have been watched closely by investors and the media, because few CEOs are considered as instrumental to their companies' success as Jobs has been to Apple.

Jobs, 54, will work from home on days he doesn't work from Apple's Cupertino, Calif., headquarters, company spokesman Steve Dowling said Monday. Dowling

music players and the iPhone, which left far more experienced mobile phone makers scrambling to catch up with similar touchscreen devices.

The Apple chief was diagnosed with a rare form of pancreatic cancer called an islet cell neuroendocrine tumor. He had surgery in 2004 and announced then that he was cured.

FDA panel to vote on painkiller restrictions

ADELPHI, Md. (AP)—Government experts are scheduled to vote on whether Nyquil and other combination cold medications should be pulled from the market to help curb deadly overdoses.

The Food and Drug Administration has assembled more than 35 experts for a two-day meeting to discuss and vote on ways to prevent overdose with acetaminophen—the pain-relieving, fever-reducing ingredient in Tylenol and dozens of other prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Despite years of educational campaigns and other federal actions, acetaminophen remains the leading cause of liver failure in the U.S., sending 56,000 people to the emergency room annually, according to the FDA. There are about 200 acetaminophen-related deaths each year.

"It can happen to anybody, but it's very rare," said Dr. Lee Simon, an associate professor

detail the likely charges against the others or say whether they would include Madoff's family or former employees.

Madoff's 150-year sentence reflected a growing tendency over the last decade to give white-collar criminals lengthy prison terms—although a handful of cases have received even longer terms. The outcome prompted scattered applause and whoops from a group of burned former clients in a packed Manhattan courtroom.

The judge noted that not one of the more than 100 letters he received supported Madoff or described any good deeds he had done.

"The absence of such support is telling," Chin said.

Chin announced the sentence with Madoff standing at the defense table, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt and a tie and looking thinner than he did at his last court appearance in March. He gave no noticeable reaction when the sentence was announced.

Rising oil, commodity prices pull stocks higher

at Harvard Medical School, who attended Monday's meeting. "Obviously it's important that we improve the communication about these products because they are ubiquitous, and we still see people inadvertently overdosing."

The drugs that could be pulled off shelves are combination medications, such as Procter & Gamble's NyQuil or Novartis' Theraflu, which mix acetaminophen with other ingredients that treat cough and runny nose.

The FDA is not required to follow the advice of its panels, though it usually does. The panel vote is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Manufacturers could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in sales if combination drugs are pulled from the market. Total sales of all acetaminophen drugs reached \$2.6 billion last year, with 80 percent of the market comprised of over-the-counter products.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rising oil, commodity prices pull stocks higher

NEW YORK (AP)—A jump in oil prices sent investors rushing to put money into the stock market in the final days of the second quarter. Energy, industrial and materials stocks pulled the market higher in light trading Monday as investors raced to keep up with the gains in oil. Crude rose \$2.33 to settle at \$71.49 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after China said it would boost

oil reserves and Nigerian militants partly shut down an offshore oil platform.

FDA says E. coli found in Nestle sample

NEW YORK (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration said Monday a sample of raw cookie dough collected at a Nestle USA manufacturing plant last week has tested positive for E. coli. Nestle voluntarily recalled all Toll House refrigerated cookie

dough products made at the Danville, Va., factory earlier this month after the FDA told Nestle it suspected consumers may have been exposed to E. coli bacteria after eating the dough raw. The FDA and the federal Centers for Disease Control have been investigating whether the cookie dough was the source of the E. coli outbreak which has sickened 69 people in 29 states, according to the latest CDC data. E. coli is a potentially deadly germ that can cause

bloody diarrhea, dehydration and, in the most severe cases, kidney failure.

Exxon to pay interest on Valdez oil spill damages

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Oil giant Exxon Mobil Corp. says it won't appeal hundreds of millions of dollars in interest on punitive damages resulting from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. The Irving, Texas-based company will pay \$470 million in interest on

more than \$507.5 million in punitive damages awarded after the 11-million gallon spill of crude in Prince William Sound. Exxon spokesman Alan Jeffers tells the Anchorage Daily News the payment will be made in the next few days. Jeffers didn't immediately return a message left Monday by The Associated Press. The decision is a turnaround for the company. Exxon Mobil since the mid-1990s has appealed court rulings on punitive damages.

Nation

Supreme Court: White firefighters bias victims

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court declared Monday that white firefighters in Connecticut were unfairly denied promotion because of their race, ruling against minorities in a major reverse discrimination case that could affect bosses and workers nationwide. The justices threw out a decision that high court nominee Sonia Sotomayor had endorsed as an appeals court judge.

In its last session until September, the court's conservative majority prevailed in a 5-4 ruling that faulted New Haven and the courts that had upheld the city's discarding of results of an exam in which no African-Americans scored high enough to be promoted to lieutenant or captain.

The city said it acted to avoid a lawsuit from minorities, but Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion that New Haven's action amounted to discrimination based on race against the white firefighters who were likely to be promoted.

"No individual should face workplace discrimination based on race," Kennedy said.

The ruling restricts, but does not eliminate employers' ability to take diversity into account in employment decisions. But the ruling could make it harder for minorities to prove discrimination based solely on lopsided racial hiring or promotions.



Frank Ricci, left, lead plaintiff in the "New Haven 20" firefighter reverse discrimination case speaks to the media outside of Federal Court in New Haven, Conn., Monday June 29, 2009.

Sotomayor and two appeals court colleagues had ruled the city did the right thing in throwing out the test, and the Supreme Court reversal gave critics fresh ammunition two weeks be-

fore her Senate confirmation hearing. Conservatives said it showed her to be a judicial activist who lets her own feelings color her decisions. "This case will only raise more questions in the

minds of the American people concerning Judge Sotomayor's commitment to treat each individual fairly and not as a member of a group," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala.

On the other hand, the Obama administration and liberal allies said her stance in the case demonstrated her restraint and unwillingness to go beyond precedents established by her own 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York.

The high court ruling shows "she doesn't legislate from the bench," said presidential spokesman Robert Gibbs. "The Supreme Court clearly had a new interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act."

Coincidentally, the justices may have given a boost to calls for quick action on her nomination.

The court said it would return Sept. 9 to hear a second round of arguments in a campaign finance case, and with Justice David Souter retiring there would be only eight justices unless Sotomayor has been confirmed by then.

In Monday's ruling, Kennedy said, "Fear of litigation alone cannot justify an employer's reliance on race to the detriment of individuals who passed the examinations and qualified for promotions." He was joined in the majority by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

In dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said the white firefighters "understandably attract the court's empathy. But they had no vested right to promotion and no person has received a promotion in preference to them."

SC governor affair changes landscape for 2010 race

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Gov. Mark Sanford's bombshell admission of an affair with an Argentine woman has touched off a delicate political dance among fellow South Carolina Republicans vying to replace him when his term ends.

The most awkward shuffle is being done by Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer—Sanford's second-in-command but not his ally—who would get a free 18-month audition for the post were Sanford to resign.

The scandal has crippled Sanford's political career, and state law would have prevented him from running for a third consecutive term anyway. A pressing question is whether he would have already stepped down if not for behind-the-scenes maneuvering by the people who want his job.

Sanford told The Associated Press on Sunday he considered resigning but didn't. He admitted last week to a year-long affair with an Argentine woman, a

confession that came after a trip to that country to see her that kept him out of touch with his family and staff, who had told the public he was hiking the Appalachian Trail.

"To be human is to on occasion, fall flat on your face," Sanford told reporters Monday after a budget meeting at which he apologized, yet again. He had bags under his eyes. "I've done it in the most public of circles. The question is, what do I learn from it and what do others learn from it?"

Bauer, who said before the scandal that he would probably run in 2010, has not joined calls for Sanford to resign. He said Monday he is considering taking himself out of the race if it turns out that's the only thing keeping Sanford in office.

"The conversation now is more about Andre Bauer than the governor," Bauer said. "This really shouldn't be the debate. The debate should be, 'Is Mark Sanford in his heart of hearts

comfortable in serving out his term?' This is a dark cloud over South Carolina. We need to move swiftly and move forward."

Rod Shealy, a longtime Bauer friend and adviser, said he believes the political interests of Bauer's potential opponents are "what's stopping the resignation that everyone has expected."

The other candidates, including a representative for Attorney General Henry McMaster, who is expected to run, insist that's not the case.

"There's no truth to it, from McMaster's point of view," said political consultant Richard Quinn. "He wouldn't allow politics to be mixed with his work as attorney general."

State Rep. Nikki Haley, R-Lexington, a Sanford ally who plans to run for his job in 2010, said she wants the governor to stay because she is worried Bauer won't continue efforts to bring accountability to government. She insists her concern is not about her own race.

Asia

Photo of NKorea's Kim may be recycled

SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—A photo of the North Korean leader recently shown on Pyongyang's state TV appears to be a doctored version of one published in April by the country's official news agency—a possible sign his health is worsening—South Korean media reported Monday.

A still photo of 67-year-old Kim Jong Il visiting an army unit, shown on state TV on June 14, is nearly identical to an April 25 military group shot of Kim, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said. The report cited unidentified intelligence officials who said there was a "a high possibility" the April image was recycled.

Officials at the National Intel-

ligence Service, South Korea's main spy agency; the Unification Ministry, which handles affairs with North Korea; and the president's office said they could not confirm the report.

Kim's health has been the focus of keen attention since he reportedly suffered a stroke last August without publicly naming a successor. He looked gaunt in an April appearance in parliament.

A string of provocative moves—including an April rocket launch, a May nuclear test and continuing threats to launch another long-range missile—are believed linked to a succession campaign under way in North Korea as Kim seeks to shore up national unity before Kim's health.

tapping his youngest son as the communist nation's next leader.

Earlier this month, the South Korean spy agency told lawmakers that Pyongyang notified its diplomatic missions and government agencies overseas that 26-year-old son Kim Jong Un was in line to succeed him.

South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo newspaper said last week that Kim has put Jong Un in charge of the country's powerful spy agency.

The Chosun Ilbo said intelligence authorities reported their assessment of recent photos of Kim to South Korea's presidential Blue House, prompting officials to keep a close watch on Kim's health.

Karzai: Afghan guards employed by US killed police

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

(AP)—President Hamid Karzai accused Afghan guards working for U.S. coalition forces of killing a provincial police chief and at least four other security officers during a gunbattle outside a government office Monday.

In a harshly worded statement, Karzai demanded that coalition forces hand over the private security guards involved. But the governor of Kandahar later said 41 guards connected to the incident had been disarmed and arrested by Afghan authorities.

The U.S. military said it



was not involved in the shooting, calling it an "Afghan-on-Afghan incident." However, Karzai's statement suggested that the security guards sought refuge at a U.S. coalition base

after the killings, and he "demanded that coalition forces prevent such incidents, which weaken the government."

The situation lays bare the often testy relations between Karzai and American officials. The president's accusations come as thousands of U.S. Marines and soldiers are deploying across southern Afghanistan, the Taliban's stronghold and a region where Karzai is also seeking votes from his Pashtun tribesmen ahead of the Aug. 20 presidential election.

Taliban scrap peace deal in Pakistan tribal area

MIR ALI, Pakistan

(AP)—Taliban militants in a tribal region bordering Afghanistan say they have pulled out of a peace deal with the government, raising the prospect of wider unrest as the Pakistani army extends its efforts to eliminate insurgents.

The militants in North Waziristan blamed continuing U.S. missile strikes and army offensives against the Taliban for their

decision, which was announced in the wake of a Taliban ambush that killed 16 soldiers.

Government leaders and Taliban representatives reached the deal in February 2008, but few details have been released about it.

U.S. officials have criticized peace deals with militants or tribes representing them in the border region, saying they allow the insurgents to

gain strength. The agreement in North Waziristan had appeared to keep things relatively peaceful there—calmer than in neighboring South Waziristan, where the army is preparing for a major offensive aimed at Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud.

The deal was struck with a Taliban faction led by Hafiz Gul Bahadur.

credited his campaign to return to the kingdom by rioting in the capital in April.

3 dead, 63 hurt in central China train collision

BEIJING (AP)—Two passenger trains collided Monday, derailing cars, crushing nearby homes and killing three people, Chinese state media and an official said. The pre-dawn crash, which injured 63, occurred in Hunan province when a train going from the provincial capital Changsha to the southern city of Shenzhen collided with another Shenzhen-bound train, state television said. The China Central Television newscast showed a tangle of red, white and blue train cars on their sides at the station in Chenzhou, where the collision occurred at 2:34 a.m. (1834 GMT Sunday). Seats were ripped from the floor of the train cars, and the

ground around the accident was littered with plastic bottles and scraps of paper.

Myanmar appeals court bars 2 witnesses for Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's highest court rejected an appeal Monday by Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers to reinstate two key witnesses in a trial that could send the pro-democracy leader to prison for five years. High Court judge Tin Aung Aye rejected the appeal because it was "intended to distract and delay the trial," court officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The court's ruling means only two people will testify in Suu Kyi's defense at her trial, which resumes Friday, and that a verdict could be reached in a week or two.

World

Fireworks over Baghdad as Iraqis take over



Iraqis celebrate in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, June 29, 2009. To mark the milestone, fireworks colored Baghdad's skyline and thousands of people attended a party in a city park late Monday where singers performed patriotic songs.

BAGHDAD (AP)

—Iraqi forces assumed formal control of Baghdad and other cities Tuesday after American troops handed over security in urban areas in a defining step toward ending the U.S. combat role in the country. A countdown clock broadcast on Iraqi TV ticked to zero as the midnight deadline passed for U.S. combat troops to finish their pullback to bases

outside cities.

"The withdrawal of American troops is completed now from all cities after everything they sacrificed for the sake of security," said Sadiq al-Rikabi, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. "We are now celebrating the restoration of sovereignty."

The Pentagon did not offer any comment to mark the passing of the deadline.

Fireworks, not bombings, colored the Baghdad skyline late Monday, and thousands attended a party in a park where singers performed patriotic songs. Loudspeakers at police stations and military checkpoints played recordings of similar tunes throughout the day, as Iraqi military vehicles decorated with flowers and national flags patrolled the capital.

Iran says partial recount shows election valid

Iran's election oversight body on Monday declared the hotly disputed presidential vote to be valid after a partial recount, rejecting opposition allegations of fraud and further silencing calls for a new vote.

State television reported that the Guardian Council presented the conclusion in a letter to the Interior Minister following a recount of what was de-

scribed as a randomly selected 10 percent of the almost 40 million ballots cast June 12.

The "meticulous and comprehensive examination" revealed only "slight irregularities that are common to any election and needless of attention," Guardian Council head Ahmed Jannati said in a letter, according to the state TV channel IRIB.

Opposition leader Mir Hos-

sein Mousavi claims he, not incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was the rightful winner and has called for a new election, something the government has repeatedly said it will not do. "From today on, the file on the presidential election has been closed," Guardian Council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei said on state-run Press TV. (AP)

Leaders from Obama to Chavez blast Honduras coup

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Police and soldiers clashed with thousands of protesters outside Honduras' national palace Monday, leaving at least 15 people injured, as world leaders from Barack Obama to Hugo Chavez demanded the return of a president ousted in a military coup.

Leftist leaders pulled their ambassadors from Honduras and Nicaraguan President

Daniel Ortega said El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala would cut trade with neighboring Honduras for at least 48 hours. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez called for Hondurans to rise up against those who toppled his ally, Manuel Zelaya.

"We're ready to support the rebellion of the Honduran people," Chavez said, though he did not say what kind of sup-

port he was offering.

Protests outside the presidential palace grew from hundreds to thousands, and soldiers and police advanced behind riot shields, using tear gas to scatter the protesters. The demonstrators, many of them choking on the gas, hurled rocks and bottles as they retreated. At least 38 protesters were detained, according to human rights prosecutor Sandra Ponce.

WORLD BRIEFS

Freight train derails, kills 10 in Italy

ROME (AP)—A rail car filled with liquefied natural gas exploded when a freight train derailed in the middle of a small Italian town, setting off an inferno that killed at least 10 people and injured 50 others, officials said Tuesday. The rear of the train plowed into a residential neighborhood just outside the rail station in the Tuscan seaside town of Viareggio, and the re-

sulting explosion collapsed at least two buildings and set fire to a vast area. Seven people, including a child, were killed at home by the collapses or the fire, said Raffaele Gargiulo, a police spokesman in the nearby city of Lucca, which is in charge of the smaller town of Viareggio.

Yemen official: Comoros-bound plane crashes

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—A Ye-

menia Air plane going from the Arabian Peninsula country of Yemen to the island nation of Comoros crashed in the Indian Ocean early Tuesday, a Yemen airport official said. The official said the plane was going from the Yemen capital San'a to Moroni, on the main island of Grand Comore. It was not known how many passengers were on board the Airbus 310 or the status of the passengers and crew.

Environment

Questions and answers about US climate bill

By DINA CAPPIELLO, ERIC CARVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

Cap-and-trade? Offsets? Pollution credits? The climate bill under consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives tackles global warming with new limits on pollution and a market-based approach to encourage more environmentally friendly business practices. But what exactly do the proposed rules mean, and how would they work?

Some questions and answers about the bill, a top legislative priority for President Barack Obama:

Q: What's the purpose of this legislation?

A: To reduce the gases linked to global warming and to force sources for power to shift away from fossil fuels, which when burned, release heat-trapping gases, and toward cleaner sources of energy such as wind, solar

MAJOR PROVISIONS

Highlights of climate bill approved and passed by the House:

- Reducing greenhouse gases by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050 through a cap-and-trade program that allows pollution permits to be bought and sold.

- Limiting emissions from major industrial sources, including power plants, factories, refineries and electricity and natural gas distributors. Emissions from agriculture would be excluded from the cap.

- Controlling carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels and limiting six other greenhouse gases.

- Allowing companies to meet emission-limiting targets by investing in offset projects such as tree planting and forest protection.

- Requiring electric utilities to produce at least 12 percent of their power from renewable sources such as wind and solar energy by 2020, and requiring as much as 8 percent in energy efficiency savings.

- Imposing tighter performance standards on new coal-fired power plants and providing \$1 billion a year in development money for capturing carbon dioxide from such plants.

- Establishing standards that will require new buildings to be 30 percent more energy-efficient by 2012 and 50 percent more efficient by 2016.

- Protecting consumers from rising energy costs by giving rebates and credits to low-income households.

© The Associated Press

and geothermal.

Q: How does the bill accomplish this?

A: By placing the first national limits on emissions of heat-trapping gases from major sources like power plants, refineries and factories. This limit effectively puts a price on the pollution, raising the cost for companies to continue to use fuels and electricity sources that contribute to global warming. This gives them an incentive to seek cleaner alternatives.

Q: Is this the "cap-and-trade" idea that has been in the news?

A: Yes. The first step in a cap-and-trade program sets a limit on the amount of gases that can be released into the atmosphere. That is the cap. Companies with facilities that are covered by the cap will then receive permits for their share of the pollution, an annual pollution allowance. This bill initially would give the bulk of the permits away for free to help ease costs, but they still would have value because there would be a limited supply. Companies that do not get a big enough allowance to cover their pollution would either have to find ways to reduce it, which can be expensive, or buy additional permits from companies that have reduced pollution enough to have allowances left over. That is the trade. Companies typically would pick the cheaper option: reducing pollution or buying permits. They also have a third choice: They can invest in pollution reductions made elsewhere, such as at farms that capture methane or plant trees. These are known as offsets.

Q: So the idea is to try to reduce the overall level of pollution, regardless of whether, say, a particular factory reduces emissions?

A: That is true in the beginning. But as the cap gets lower and lower, reaching

ON THE NET

Background on H.R. 2454:
<http://tinyurl.com/psws23>

ing an 83 percent reduction by 2050, eventually all polluters will have to reduce. It is merely a question of when. For instance, it will be very tough for coal plants to reduce emissions at the outset of the program because the technology to capture and store carbon dioxide is not yet commercially available. It probably is 10 to 20 years away. So they will be buying offsets and buying allowances from other entities that will have an easier time.

global warming.

pollution over the limit.

Q: Who opposes this approach, and why?

A: Republicans, some farm groups, some environmentalists, the oil industry, which feels it has received too few free permits, and some moderate Democrats. They all worry about the cost and the loss of jobs if industries move to countries that do not have controls on greenhouse gases. The bill has provisions to prevent this, but there are questions whether they will work. Republicans call the bill a national en-

Q: Other than costs potentially being passed along to consumers, will this affect most Americans' day-to-day lives?

A: It fundamentally will change how we use, produce and consume energy, ending the country's love affair with big gas-guzzling cars and its insatiable appetite for cheap electricity. This bill will put smaller, more efficient cars on the road, swap smokestacks for windmills and solar panels, and transform the appliances you can buy for your home.

Q: How quickly will we notice these changes?

A: Some will occur more quickly than others. For instance, measures to boost energy efficiency in buildings and appliances are the low-hanging fruit that does not require major infrastructure changes or new technologies. Other changes are decades off and probably will come when the cap gets more stringent and permits get more expensive. For instance, the country can build more wind and more solar panels, but currently it lacks the transmission lines to move the energy they generate to population centers. As for cars: While more efficient models are a near-term reality, it will take a while to change out the fleet. Some people will continue driving 10-year-old gas guzzlers.

Q: What are the chances this bill will become law?

A: Both the Obama administration and Democrats want this bill passed by the end of the year, when negotiations for a new international agreement to reduce greenhouse gases get under way in Copenhagen, Denmark. Even as Democrats hold the majority in Congress, it will not be easy to get this enacted. Many moderate Democrats from rural states and conservative districts are worried about the costs and complexity of the legislation when the economy is already weak. Very few Republicans, if any, are expected to support the bill. Approval of a climate bill in the Senate has been viewed as a long shot. Parts of the bill may need to be changed to secure approval in the Senate.

Q: Why is it so important to tackle global warming anyway?

A: Left untended, scientists say, global warming will cause sea levels to rise, increase storms and worsen air pollution. For these reasons, the Environmental Protection Agency recently concluded that six greenhouse gases pose dangers to human health and welfare. And politically, without U.S. action, developing countries like China probably will not agree to mandatory pollution limits.



The Jan. 10, 2009 file photo shows a flock of geese flying past a smokestack at the Jeffery Energy Center coal power plant near Emmitt, Kan.

Q: Do most environmentalists support this approach?

A: Most do, at least broadly. Cap-and-trade has had success. Since 1990, the United States has had a cap-and-trade program for sulfur dioxide, the main culprit in acid rain. Democrats have had to make a lot of concessions to win votes for the current bill from lawmakers from coal, oil and farm states. Some liberal environmentalists think these concessions weaken the bill. For instance, the bill's sponsors have had to lower the cap—it originally called for a 20 percent cut by 2020—to 17 percent. Research suggests that much deeper cuts will be needed globally to avert the most serious consequences of

energy tax on every American family. This is because, as industries spend money to reduce pollution or buy credits, they will pass on that cost to consumers, the people who turn on the lights or pump gas in their cars.

Recent analyses by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office show that the new rules eventually will cost the average household an extra \$175 a year.

Q: Under the bill, what will happen to companies that do not follow the rules?

A: If they exceed their limit, they will have to pay a fine equal to twice the cap-and-trade price for each ton of

Life & Style

Fans moonwalk to honor Jackson, wait for tribute

PARIS (AP)—Mourning Michael Jackson fans lauded his talent, moonwalked in his honor, sang his lyrics and awaited word Monday on the possibility of a global memorial to the King of Pop.

In Paris, fans and Jackson lookalikes held what they claimed was the world's biggest moonwalk, organized via Facebook. Gliding backwards beneath the Eiffel Tower, they sang, cheered and chanted Sunday in homage to the singer, who died Thursday in Los Angeles.

"Michael forever in our hearts," read one banner.

American singer Usher, at designer Lanvin's Paris menswear show, called Jackson an inspiration.

"If I did not know Michael Jackson, I would not be who I am today," he said. "He has been an inspiration to all of us as a humanitarian, as a philanthropist, as a father, as a man, as an entertainer."

Across China, thousands of fans held vigils for Jackson in several cities. In Malaysia, hundreds gathered at a Kuala Lumpur shopping mall Sunday to sing along to Jackson songs and sign a banner with condolences while Jackson impersonators performed. Another 200 fans held a candlelight vigil in a Tokyo park. A few hundred fans gathered Monday evening in Rome's historic Piazza Navona, lighting candles and leaving roses, messages and photos of Michael Jackson near Gian Lorenzo Bernini's 17th century fountain.

Many wore Jackson-like hats, sequined jackets and a glove on their right hand as they listened to his songs



A fan touches Michael Jackson's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on Monday, June 29, 2009.

Michael Jackson wrapped video before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two weeks before he died, Michael Jackson wrapped up work on an elaborate production dubbed the "Dome Project" that could be the final finished video piece overseen by the King of Pop. The Associated Press has learned. Details on the project are scarce. Two people with knowledge of the project confirmed its existence Monday to the AP on condition they not be identified because they signed confidentiality agreements.

They said it was a five-week project filmed at Culver Studios, which 70 years ago was the set for the classic film "Gone With the Wind." Four sets were constructed for Jackson's production, including a cemetery recalling his 1983 "Thriller" video.

Shooting for the project lasted from June 1-9, with Jackson on the set most days. Now in post-production, the

project is expected to be completed next month.

Producer Robb Wagner, founder of music-video company Stimulated Inc., did not immediately return a message seeking comment on the project.

Michael Roth, a spokesman for Jackson's Los Angeles-based promoter AEG Live, said he hadn't heard about the production but did not rule that it could be part of the company's contract with the entertainer.

According to one of the people with knowledge of the project, a willow-thin, pallid Jackson left a memorable impression on the crew, arriving in a caravan of SUVs with hulking security guards in tow. The person said Jackson introduced himself to workers on the set and walked with a spring in his step but at one point needed assistance as he descended steps off a stage.

Besides the cemetery, one set was draped in black with an oversized portrait of Jackson in his "Thriller" werewolf costume. Another set was designed to simulate a lush jungle, and a fourth was built to replicate a construction site, with a screen in the back to allow projection of different backgrounds.

Taping took place in marathon sessions ending early in the morning. One scene filmed on the construction site set included scantily clad male dancers wearing carpenter's belts.

It's unclear what final form or forms the video project will take.

According to Stimulated's Web site, the company was hired to produce screen content for Jackson's planned comeback concerts in London. Stimulated has worked with Def Leppard and the Pussycat Dolls, and produced content for the Academy Awards and the Emmys.

Coroner team gathers evidence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators on Monday retrieved medications from the rented mansion where pop star Michael Jackson was fatally stricken last week, a coroner's official said.

Two coroner's investigators and two police detectives spent several hours inside the three-story estate home and then emerged with two large red bags filled with evidence.

The coroner's office performed an autopsy on the 50-year-old entertainer's body on Friday but deferred a decision on the cause of death, citing the need for further tests. A second, private autopsy has been requested by the family, according to Jackson's father, Joe.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter told reporters outside the home that authorities returned to the home to gather additional items, which he identified as "some medications."

Winter cited "information that was obtained by the Los Angeles Police Department along with some questions we had involving some of the medications," but he did not elaborate.

He would not say what type of medications were picked up. He also did not say how much medication there was or where in the home it was found.

A police official close to the investigation said detectives had used a search warrant to enter the house. The official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the case and asked not to be named, declined to specify what was removed from the home but said investigators would be speaking to any doctors who were determined to have prescribed medi-

ince urged fans to organize an event on Aug. 29, Jackson's birthday, while another posted details of a tentative Jackson vigil on Friday in Inner Mongolia.

In Japan, a scholar reflected on the Jackson's historic significance.

"Which was the bigger step for mankind—Apollo 11 or Michael's moonwalk?" asked Yoshiaki Sato, who studies American culture, in an opinion piece in Monday's Yomiuri newspaper.

The U.S. won the Cold War not through military might but through the charm of artists like Jackson, he said, whose songs introduced people in the former Soviet states, the Middle East and China to the greatness of American culture.

"His death, like Presley's, may not have been fitting of a hero. But his life will shine on in world history," he said.

In Turkey, the Association for Dialogue between Religions, Languages and Civilizations held Islamic prayers and handed out traditional sweets Sunday for Jackson in Mercimekli, a southeastern village.

"Michael Jackson was a living legend not only in America and the Christian world but the Islamic world too," Mehmet Ali Aslan, the head of the association, was quoted as saying.

In Pakistan, a 42-year-old human resources manager remembered how he would do anything as a teenager to buy Jackson's music.

"His unique way of dancing used to mesmerize me," said Emadullah Khan. "I did not have enough pocket money to buy a video cassette of his album so I stole money from my mother's handbag to buy one. That is the only theft I

cations to Jackson.

Investigators have already interviewed Jackson's primary physician, Conrad Murray, and said he was cooperating fully.

The investigation will possibly continue for another four or five weeks, "with extensive testing," Winter said.

Winter said Jackson's family was being "extremely cooperative."

Jackson was pronounced dead Thursday at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, where he was taken by paramedics.

The police official said the case remains a standard death investigation, and nothing suggests wrongdoing at this time.

Two days after Jackson's death, moving vans were spotted arriving at his home. It wasn't known what was being taken out but one expert wondered about the ramifications of investigators returning to the house several days after the death.

Generally, if a case turns into a criminal investigation, taking evidence from a home days after a death creates the potential for a defense lawyer to claim evidence was tainted, University of Southern California law professor Jean Rosenbluth said.

"As soon as law enforcement gets information that there might be some kind of criminal activity, they go back," she said. "Any good defense attorney can make a claim that the evidence might have been tainted somehow because all sorts of people had access to it before the crime scene was secured."

have committed in my life and I have never regretted it."

In a corner of Johannesburg where streets have been renamed and statues erected to honor musical stars, young people agreed that Jackson was an icon but said his legacy in South Africa would be mixed.

Mogameli Ncube, 23, sat by a statue of Brenda Fassie, a pop singer known as the "Madonna of the Townships." He said Jackson, like Fassie, managed to appeal to a racially mixed audience.

"His music brought black and white people together," he said. "He made a lot of impact in South Africa."

He also remembered practicing Jackson's dance steps at home.

"Everyone wanted to be M.J.," Ncube said.

Filmmaker Musa Boto, 23, said Jackson's musical legacy wasn't in question but he was troubled by the singer's changing appearance.

"I think that a lot of people have problems with his image," he said.

To compare Jackson with South African musicians would be disrespectful, Boto added, gesturing to Miriam Makeba Street, named for the anti-apartheid singer and activist.

"Miriam Makeba, she was involved in our politics and our struggle," he said. "(Jackson) was irrelevant in that way."

In the Philippines, inmates who shot to global fame with a YouTube video recreating the "Thriller" dance routine said they would like to take part in a global tribute. Their "Thriller" video has attracted 26.5 million views since it was posted two years ago.

Battle to control Jackson's fortune begins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—So, who gets Michael Jackson's riches?

His mother took the first step Monday when she petitioned the Superior Court of California to be named the administrator of the late singer's estate. Katherine Jackson said in the filing she was acting to ensure Michael Jackson's three children are the beneficiaries.

It's the opening salvo in a complicated battle for a fortune that includes a lucrative music catalog of the King of Pop's own hits, the rights to songs by the Beatles, and the Neverland ranch that could one day be a tourist attraction.

There's even an elaborate video production, dubbed the "Dome Project," that was overseen by Jackson and finished two weeks before he died.

The high stakes and array of people involved will likely make the fight far more convoluted than recent high-profile squabbles over the estates of singer James Brown and ex-Playboy playmate Anna Nicole Smith.

"There's no doubt that there's going to be a big battle," said Alexis Martin Neely, a Los Angeles-based estate attorney. "It's going to be very messy and I don't see anything comparing to this."

Complicating matters is that few, if any, people know all the details of the reclusive entertainer's financial affairs. His mother's filing, for example, declares that Jackson died "intestate," or without a will. But that is in dispute. Another person with knowledge of Jackson's business matters told The Associated Press last Friday that there is a will, which would take precedent in court. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the material.

Becoming an estate administrator "puts a vast amount of power in one person's hands," said Roy Kozupsky, a lawyer with Smith, Gambrell & Russell. The person would have the power to sell assets, make deals and determine how to pay off creditors, he said.

At stake is Jackson's 50 percent ownership in Sony/ATV Music Publishing, a company itself estimated to be worth \$2 billion; Jackson's own recordings and songwriting rights, which could be worth more than \$150 million; and his joint ownership of the Neverland ranch.

Katherine Jackson said in her filing she intends to use the estate's assets for "the exclusive use of the deceased's (Jackson's) three children." But the filing could also be the first move in contesting the validity of a will, if there is one, Kozupsky said.

Jackson, who died Thursday at age 50, left behind three children: son Michael Joseph Jr., known as Prince Michael, 12; daughter Paris Michael Katherine, 11; and son Prince Michael II, 7. The youngest was born to a surrogate mother, while the first two were born to ex-wife Deborah Rowe.

The list of potential parties seeking a piece of Jackson's estate is long, ranging from financial firms to the companies involved in his planned comeback. Among them is AEG Live, the concert promoter that booked Jackson for 50 sold-out performances at London's O2 arena starting next month.

AEG Live reportedly gave Jackson



AP
Host Jamie Foxx right, and Ne-Yo, center, pay tribute to the late singer Michael Jackson at the finale of the 9th Annual BET Awards on Sunday, June 28, 2009, in Los Angeles.

a \$20 million advance, which it may seek to recover from the estate. AEG Live declined to comment.

How much AEG can recover will likely depend on the wording of insurance policies it took out and whether they included protection against "medical conditions or another event," said Mary Craig Calkins, a partner at Howrey LLP who handles insurance recovery cases for TV and film productions.

The promoter took out about \$18 million in insurance through Lloyd's of London, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment.

A big part of determining what the estate is worth—and how much it owes in taxes—will depend on how much Jackson owed to creditors. Estimates put the tally around \$400 million.

The federal government will be able to collect around 45 percent in tax on the value of the estate's assets, minus its debts and administration costs including attorney fees.

It appears that the most valuable assets will likely remain in the estate's control.

The Sony/ATV stake and 100 per-

cent of Mijac, the company that controls Michael Jackson's own music, were held in a trust whose beneficiaries are Jackson's children. That trust is safe from creditors, said Al Malnik, its former trustee and Jackson's business adviser from 2002 to 2005.

"The assets were protected through the trust against creditors," Malnik said Monday.

Jackson used those assets as collateral to secure \$200 million in loans from Bank of America in 2001. He then refinanced several times. Malnik said the loan total reached \$275 million by the time he quit as trustee in 2005. Fortress Investment Group LLC, which took control in 2005, sold the loans off entirely "over a year ago," said company spokeswoman Lilly Donohue.

It is unclear who holds the loans now, but one candidate is Colony Capital LLC, a Los Angeles real estate firm owned by billionaire Thomas Barrack, which also set up a joint venture with Jackson to own Neverland, the 2,500-acre property in Santa Barbara County that once included amusement park rides and zoo animals.

Barrack had lunch with Jackson brothers Jackie, Jermaine and Tito on

See BATTLE on Page 20

Editors scramble to get covers on Michael Jackson

NEW YORK (AP)—After Michael Jackson's death last week, editors scrambled to turn the King of Pop into the king of magazine covers.

From Newsweek's shot of a young reflective Jackson to Herb Ritts' sexy T-shirt photo used for Time's special commemorative edition, the Gloved One was already on newsstands Monday morning. And more print celebrations were on the way from, among others, *In Touch Weekly*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Ebony*, *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone* and *OK!*

Said Richard Stengel, Time's managing editor: "The decision to do the special edition was made at 11 p.m. Thursday," hours after the pop superstar's death. "Friday was always scheduled to be a regular work day, so the whole staff was working. It really was all-hands-on-deck."

"The art department sprang into action as did the photo department," Stengel said in an interview. "We came up with a plan for a table of contents and the architecture of the issue, and then assigned the stories. Once that happened, everybody got into motion. In a little over 24 hours, it was basically complete."

Time's 64-page edition—separate from its regular weekly issue that came out Friday—exhaustively covers Jackson's career. It was Time's first special edition since the 9/11 attacks.

The special opens with Jackson's death and then flashes back to his beginnings, starting with a section called Prodigy, followed by Superstar, Jacko, Legacy and finally Farewell, a single, full-page photograph of the man's fashion trademark, a sequined glove.

"We realized his life did fall into these chapters," Stengel explained. "There was the little Michael Jackson—the Jackson 5. There were the superstar years where he was the most famous, global celebrity and then the very weird, eccentric years. We thought that would be a great structure for the package—with that opening story about the news of his death and then a closing piece evaluating the music."

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Newsweek took a different approach, incorporating Jackson's death into a regularly scheduled issue. But the magazine, a double issue for the weeks

of July 6 and 13, has two different covers—with the Jackson cover available on newsstands and subscribers receiving an issue celebrating "What to read now—50 books that make sense of our times." Number one on the list: "The Way We Live Now," Anthony Trollope's satiric dissection of Victorian financial and moral tribulations, first published in 1875.

"We try to do a 'hard' close of the magazine on Friday evening, but we can go into the magazine on Saturday if we need to up until

about 2 p.m. and it prints later that evening," Daniel Klaudman, Newsweek's managing editor, said.

"This was a case where the story broke on Thursday, so we had sufficient time to get decent coverage into the magazine. You want to be on the newsstand for those epic stories where people still want to run out (and buy it)."

"But then for our subscribers, who don't get the magazine as quickly, there's the summer reading cover, which has been in the works for a while and which readers will be able to go back to over the next week or two or longer."

Many publications had already gone to press last week when news of Jackson's death hit, but they are making up for it this week or next.

Rolling Stone will have a special "bookazine" tribute, selling at \$9.99, with 450,000 copies being put on newsstands July 10.

USA Today has two publications available—one, a large, glossy, 96-page tribute entitled "Michael Jackson: King of Pop," already on newsstands, and the other a 40-page tabloid-size edition called "Michael 1958-2009," available Tuesday.

Jackson shares the cover of the new issue of *In Touch Weekly* with Farrah Fawcett, who died the same day as the music icon. "It's an equal split," said Richard Spencer, editor-in-chief of the magazine, which will be out Tuesday.

Fawcett's death from cancer had been expected, and *In Touch Weekly*, like most other publications, was ready for it.

"Michael was a little bit different," Spencer said. "We ran an article six months ago saying he had medical problems and one of the sources in the article said his doctors gave him six months to live."

"Of course, we didn't know he was going to die that day, but we were prepared that he was sick and things were looking very sketchy for his comeback tour."

C ho o s -
ing the cover
photo of
Jackson and
Fawcett at *In
Touch Weekly*
touched off
a debate,"
Spender said.

"The most
recent pho-
tos have his
nose looking
so much like
the product
of plastic sur-
gery and we
didn't want
a lot of that
negativity

when you looked at the cover," he said. "We chose something that went back when he was younger."

It echoes the sentiment of Time's Stengel whose magazine got its cover photo from the Ritt estate.

"I didn't want to have a photo from the later, freaky years," Stengel said. "I wanted a beautiful image that ... showed him (Jackson) at his height. ... I also thought there was something poetic about the gesture he was making (in the photo) because it's almost like he is waving goodbye."



In this image released by Time Inc., the cover of a special commemorative 64-page issue of "Time," magazine, dedicated to the late Michael Jackson, is shown.

Jackson doc's attorney: Lengthy delay calling 911

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took up to a half-hour for paramedics to be called to Michael Jackson's home after the singer was found stricken in the bedroom of his rented mansion, an attorney for the firm representing the pop icon's doctor said Monday.

Matt Alford, a partner in the Houston law firm representing Dr. Conrad Murray, said the physician was unfamiliar with his surroundings and that delayed the call.

"He didn't know where he was, didn't know the physical address," Alford said in an interview with The Associated Press. "There was no land line, no phone in Jackson's room that

would have allowed him to call. It was all happening so fast."

Alford said he doesn't know how long Murray performed CPR on the singer before rushing downstairs to find someone to call 911.

The first person Murray encountered was the chef, who then got one of Jackson's security guards. The security guard went with Murray to Jackson's room.

Once there, Murray told the security guard to call 911 while he continued CPR, Alford said. Murray "is still performing CPR while the security guard is speaking with emergency services on the phone," Alford said.

Fire department officials have said it took three minutes for paramedics to arrive at Jackson's home once they received the call for help. They spent 42 minutes working with Murray on Jackson before transporting the 50-year-old pop icon to UCLA Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Alford said it took an estimated 20 to 30 minutes before the first call to rescue crews was made.

"There's no way anybody in any situation like that can get an exact time on it," Alford said.

The revelation about the delay in calling for emergency workers came as

Murray's attorneys tried to explain and defend the cardiologist's actions.

In a series of interviews with national news outlets Monday, attorney Edward Chernoff explained the doctor's response to finding Jackson on Thursday in his bed, not breathing but with a faint pulse.

Chernoff, who represented Murray during a three-hour interview with Los Angeles police detectives on Saturday, told CNN the doctor performed CPR for several minutes before leaving the stricken singer's side. He dismissed those who questioned why Murray didn't follow suggested procedures and move Jackson from the bed to a harder

surface too perform CPR.

"His first goal was to resuscitate Michael Jackson," Chernoff said. "He knows how to perform CPR and he performed it properly."

The doctor rode with Jackson in the ambulance and assisted emergency room doctors in trying to revive the pop star, Chernoff said. After he was pronounced dead, Murray spoke with Jackson's siblings LaToya and Jermaine, and spoke briefly with Jackson's mother, he told CNN.

Jackson's children asked to see their father after he died and, after a consultation with a psychiatrist, they were allowed to see him, Chernoff said.

Medical examiner: Pitchman Mays had heart disease

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Television pitchman Billy Mays likely died of a heart attack in his sleep, but further tests are needed to be sure of the cause of death, a medical examiner said Monday. Hillsborough County Medical Examiner Vernard Adams said Mays suffered from hypertensive heart disease, and the wall of the left ventricle of Mays' heart and the wall of one of his arteries were enlarged.



Mays

The boisterous, bearded 50-year-old known for hawking OxiClean and other products on national commercials was found dead Sunday by his wife in their Tampa condominium.

"The heart disease is perfectly consistent with sudden death," Adams said.

An official cause of death will be issued after toxicology and other tests are completed in eight to 10 weeks.

"While it provides some closure to learn that heart disease took Billy from us, it certainly doesn't ease the enormous void that his death has created in our lives," his wife, Deborah, said in a statement. "As you can imagine, we are all devastated."

Adams said Mays was taking the prescription painkillers Tramadol and hydrocodone for hip pain, but there

was no indication of drug abuse. Mays had planned to have hip-replacement surgery Monday.

Mays told his wife he didn't feel well when he went to bed sometime after 10 p.m. Saturday. Earlier in the day, he said he was hit on the head when his flight from Philadelphia had a rough landing at Tampa International Airport. The airline said no passengers reported serious injuries.

Adams said the autopsy showed no evidence of head trauma.

In a 911 tape released Monday, a frantic woman tells emergency operators she found Mays cold and unresponsive. The woman isn't identified, but police have said Deborah Mays found her husband dead.

When asked what had happened, the caller says she doesn't know.

A second person got on the phone as the operator encourages them to get Mays on the floor to start CPR.

"We can't get him up, ma'am," the woman says. "He's gone."

Born William Mays in McKees Rocks, Pa., on July 20, 1958, Mays developed his style demonstrating knives, mops and other "As Seen on TV" gadgets on Atlantic City's boardwalk. For years he worked as a hired gun on the

state fair and home show circuits, attracting crowds with his booming voice and genial manner.

After meeting Orange Glo International founder Max Appel at a home show in Pittsburgh in the mid-1990s, Mays was recruited to demonstrate the environmentally friendly line of cleaning products on the St. Petersburg-based Home Shopping Network, now known as HSN. Commercials and informercials followed, anchored by the high-energy Mays using them while tossing out kitschy phrases like, "Long live your laundry!"

HSN released a statement Monday morning, praising Mays as a "legend in the electronic retail history whose personality, entrepreneurial spirit and thoughtfulness for others have always been larger than life."

His ubiquitousness and thumbs-up, in-your-face pitches won Mays plenty of fans for his commercials on a wide variety of products. People lined up at his personal appearances for autographed color glossies, and strangers stopped him in airports to chat about the products.

"I enjoy what I do," Mays told The Associated Press in a 2002 interview. "I think it shows."

Mays liked to tell the story of giving bottles of OxiClean to the 300 guests

at his wedding, and doing his ad spiel ("powered by the air we breathe!") on the dance floor at the reception. Visitors to his house typically got bottles of

Screamin' seafaring tale wins bad writing contest

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A shambling sentence about screaming seafarers on the sturdy whaler Ellie May stood shoulders above the rest in an annual bad writing contest.

David McKenzie, 55, of Federal Way, Wash., won the grand prize in San Jose State University's annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest with this:

"Folks say that if you listen real close at the height of the full moon, when the wind is blowin' off Nantucket Sound from the nor' east and the dogs are howlin' for no earthly reason, you can hear the awful screams of the crew of the 'Ellie May,' a sturdy whaler Captained by John McTavish; for it was on just such a night when the rum was flowin' and, Davey Jones be damned, big John brought his men on deck for the first of several screaming contests."

The contest, a parody of prose, invites entrants to submit bad opening sentences to imaginary novels. It is named after Victorian writer Edward George Earl Bulwer-Lytton, who opened his 1830 novel "Paul Clifford," with the much-quoted, "It was a dark and

cleaner and housekeeping tips.

Besides his wife, Mays is survived by a 3-year-old daughter and a stepson in his 20s, police said.

BATTLE

From Page 19

Saturday at Neverland.

Jackson's estate is still growing through record sales and songwriting rights.

So far this year, some 297,000 of his albums have sold in the U.S., and that's not including last week, when sales spiked in the wake of the singer's death. Jackson's existing works will continue to sell well, said Keith Caulfield, senior charts manager for Billboard magazine.

"He's good for at least a half a million albums a year," Caulfield said.

Songwriting rights also keep earning revenue. Jackson wrote many of the songs he recorded including "Beat It," "Bad," and "Black or White."

For the past three years, Jackson has ranked among the top-earning 100 U.S. songwriters for royalty payments collected by Broadcast Music Inc.

"Michael Jackson is the number one international songwriter in the

world for BMI. He is it," BMI chief executive Del Bryant said, adding that use of the singer's songs outside of the U.S. earn more than \$1 million dollars annually just for Jackson's share of the royalties.

Warner-Chappell Music, a division of Warner Music Group Corp., is Jackson's music publisher, meaning it promotes use of his songs and lyrics in commercials and TV shows. Jackson's own works, plus scores of song rights he purchased, gross several million dollars per year.

Jackson also owns the master recordings of his own albums such as "Thriller" and "Bad" and had a distribution deal with Sony, according to a person familiar with his finances, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the material.

The surge in interest in his music could inflate the value of assets held by his estate, and the tax bill owed to the U.S. government.

"Unfortunately due to his demise, the value of these entities has increased substantially," Malnik said.

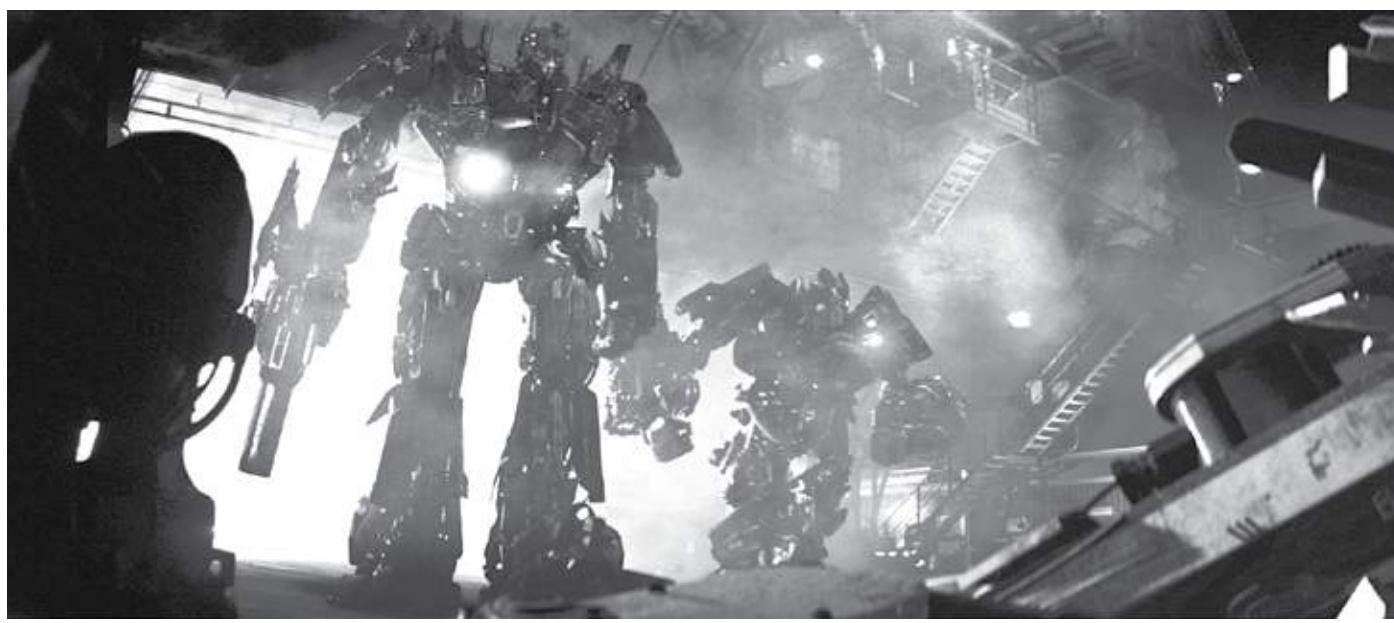


FIRST PHOTO

In this first official photo of twin daughters provided by Robin Layton, actors Matthew Broderick, right, Sarah Jessica Parker, left, and their son James Wilkie Broderick pose with their new daughters Marion Loretta Elwell Broderick, left, and Tabitha Hodge Broderick on Monday, June 29, 2009, in New York. The girls were born Monday June 22, 2009.

AP

'Transformers': Worst-reviewed \$400 million hit?



In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, autobots, Optimus Prime, left, and Ironhide are shown in a scene from, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After just five days, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" is halfway to \$400 million domestically, a box-office milestone only eight other movies have reached. If it climbs that high, the "Transformers" sequel will be by far the worst-reviewed movie ever to make the \$400 million club.

Critics and mainstream crowds often disagree, but "Revenge of the Fallen" sets a new standard for the gulf between what reviewers and mass audiences like.

The movie pulled in \$200.1 million since opening Wednesday, the second-best result for a movie in its first five days, just behind "The Dark Knight" with \$203.8 million. Even after its whopping \$60.6 million opening day, "Revenge of the Fallen" was packing theaters, a sign that unlike critics, who mostly hated the movie, audiences felt they were getting their money's worth and were giving the flick good word of mouth.

Critics "forget what the goal of the movie was. The goal of the movie is to entertain and have fun," said Rob Moore, vice chairman of Paramount, which

is distributing "Transformers" for DreamWorks. "What the audience tells us is, 'We couldn't be more entertained and having more fun.' They kind of roll their eyes at the critics and say, 'You have no idea what you're talking about.'"

According to Paramount's exit polls, 91 percent of the audience thought the sequel was as good as or better than the first "Transformers," which received far better reviews.

Most of Hollywood's all-time biggest hits are accompanied by either good or at least passable reviews, and some can be among the year's most-acclaimed, such as this year's "Up" and "Star Trek" and last year's "The Dark Knight," "WALL-E" and "Iron Man."

Not so for the new "Transformers." On Rottentomatoes.com, a Web site that compiles critics' opinions, the sequel had only 38 positive reviews out of 187, a lowly 20 percent rating usually reserved for box-office duds.

Many critics who liked the movie had reservations, praising the movie's visual effects and relentless action but generally advising audiences to check their brains at the door.

The critical drubbing was a new low for "Transformers" director Michael Bay, never a favorite among professional movie reviewers. But he has long been a favorite among fans, scoring hits with the first "Transformers" and such flicks as "Armageddon," "Pearl Harbor," "Bad Boys II" and "The Rock."

Like blockbuster maestro Jerry Bruckheimer, who produced many of Bay's movies, the director aims to please audiences, not critics.

"He really had blinders on when it comes to what he believed the picture needs to be, and then he executed it," said Brad Grey, Paramount chairman and chief executive officer. "He's a director who is the definition of blockbuster at this point. His grosses speak for themselves."

Bay's previous worst score on Rottentomatoes was 23 percent for "Bad Boys II," followed by 25 percent for "Pearl Harbor." Even his commercial flop "The Island" rated well above the "Transformers" sequel, with 40 percent positive reviews.

Of the eight movies that have grossed more than \$400 million domestically, four scored

90 percent or higher on Rotten-tomatoes: "The Dark Knight," "Spider-Man," "E.T. the Extraterrestrial" and "Star Wars." Two others, "Shrek 2" and "Titanic," topped 80 percent.

The other two had mixed reviews but still came in far higher than "Revenge of the Fallen," with "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace" scoring 63 percent and "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" rating 53 percent.

This year's biggest hits so far had terrific scores, "Up" with 97 percent and "Star Trek" with 95 percent. Both movies have grossed about \$250 million, a number the "Transformers" sequel will soar past by next weekend.

On Metacritic.com, a site that assigns ratings of zero to 100 based on movie reviews, "Revenge of the Fallen" received a 36, a lowly score barely above those given to recent box-office duds "Year One" and "Land of the Lost."

Bay has said that if there is a third "Transformers" movie, he would like to come back for it. But his next project could be far quieter than the explosions and action for which he is known.

"Avenue Q," which features a cast of people and puppets with names such as Kate, Rod, Princeton, Lucy, Christmas Eve and Trekkie Monster, won the 2004 Tony for best musical. Said producer Robyn Goodman: "We will miss our furry friends on 45th Street but are very proud of their longevity."

Hargitay, Meloni signed for 'Law & Order: SVU'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avenue Q" will reach the end of its Broadway road in September. The musical about the hopeful twenty-something residents of a very particular New York street closes Sept. 13 after a six-year run and 2,534 performances.

a hospital being treated for flu-like symptoms. Her husband, Prince Frederick von Anhalt, said Monday the 92-year-old actress was treated at a hospital and released. He did not provide details on her condition. Gabor is partially paralyzed from a 2002 car accident and reportedly had a stroke in 2005. The actress, married eight times, had a middling film career mostly in the 1950s and has epitomized the celebrity who is famous for being famous.

'Avenue Q' reaches the end of its Broadway road

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avenue Q" will reach the end of its Broadway road in September. The musical about the hopeful twenty-something residents of a very particular New York street closes Sept. 13 after a six-year run and 2,534 performances.

Zsa Zsa Gabor out of hospital after 6-day stay

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor is back home after spending six days in

Girlfriend can't get clearance to see man's top-secret list

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Beau," and I moved in together and already we have trust issues. He doesn't trust me around his computer. He said he has things on it that are part of his past, and it's none of my business.

One of the things he doesn't want me to see is "The List." He keeps a list of all the girls he has slept with—including one-night stands. I have asked Beau how many there have been, but he doesn't want to tell me "because it will hurt me." He has revealed that it's a number between 10 and 50.

I have asked him to delete the list, but he said that if he gets a weird disease in the future, he can always refer back to it. I have nightmares about this.

Should I drop the matter?



Dear Abby

UNLISTED NUMBER IN TEXAS

DEAR UNLISTED: No, honey. You should drop him. If Beau was simply afraid you would see how many women he has slept with and was trying to protect your feelings, he would print out the list and stash it in a safety deposit box. What he's afraid of is that you'll see the list is GROWING.

I don't blame you for having nightmares. A man who is seriously worried that he'll get a weird disease in the future is exposing himself and YOU to them now. So pack your bags, get out of there and schedule an appointment with your gynecologist ASAP.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister, "Carole," has been dealing with breast cancer for almost a year. Although my family and I live three hours away and are struggling with problems of our own, we have always been supportive of her.

Last week, Carole called to tell me she'll be going to Australia at the end of the year—a "reward" from her husband for everything she has been through. I was happy for her until she informed me that I would be taking care of her kids for two weeks while she's on vacation.

I joked, "It doesn't sound like you're giving me any choice in this." She replied: "No, I'm not. I went through cancer. I deserve this trip."

I reminded Carole that when I watched her kids just two months ago, things didn't go well. They are completely different from my children, and they don't like each other. Her 5-year-old daughter cried all night, every night while she was here. Her son destroys everything he comes into contact with—we still have a hole in the bedroom wall—and has a vocabulary I don't want my kids exposed to.

Do I have a right to just say "no" and offer my best wishes in finding a sitter? I feel guilty, but I don't feel she's entitled to demand this from me. Am I being a bad sister?

NEEDS RESOLUTION IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

DEAR NEEDS RESOLUTION: Your reasons for declining your sister's edict seem perfectly reasonable to me. You took care of your niece and nephew before—it didn't work out. You are perfectly within your rights to be firm with Carole and let her know she's going to have to make other arrangements for her little ones while she's on holiday. A perfect solution would be for them to be looked after by either set of grandparents.

DEAR ABBY: Does anyone know what the protocol is for providing food for house sitters? Should they bring their own, or should it be provided for them?

NOT CERTAIN IN ALBANY, ORE.

DEAR NOT CERTAIN: I think the answer depends upon who is doing the sitting and for how long a period of time. However, if you're wise, you will make sure to have a clearly stated agreement in advance so there are no misunderstandings.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby - Wedding Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Murray edges Wawrinka under Wimbledon's roof



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—They played into the night on Centre Court, later than anyone ever had in Wimbledon's long history, and they played indoors, the first match contested entirely under the new roof.

And at 10:39 p.m. Monday, when No. 3-seeded Andy Murray of Britain finally finished off a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 victory over No. 19 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland to reach the quarterfinals at the All England Club, the partisan fans celebrated their guy's victory with quite a roar.

"It was pretty special," said Murray, who dropped to his knees when the match ended, then stood and swatted a ball straight up so hard it hit the roof.

No man from Britain has won Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936, and, like his countrymen, Murray—a 22-year-old from Scotland—is more interested in that sort of history than the sort he and Wawrinka made Monday.

Still, these circumstances were rather extraordinary, what with Centre Court's roof shut, the lights on and a chance to play the match until its rightful conclusion, no matter how late. That's never before been the case at Wimbledon, where unlike the U.S. Open, there never has been lighted courts, and matches often are stopped in progress because of darkness. Previously, no Centre Court point had been played later than 9:35 p.m.

"I'll have a pretty deep sleep after that one," Murray said.

At a tournament that began in 1877, not a single point had been contested indoors until earlier Monday, when a light sprinkle interrupted No. 1-ranked Dinara Safina's 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over 2006 champion Amelie Mauresmo. After the fifth game of the second set, the translucent roof above the main stadium was closed, and Safina and Mauresmo finished up underneath—even though by the time they resumed, the rain had stopped.

Because forecasts called for later showers (none arrived), organizers left the contraption sealed for Murray-Wawrinka, which turned out to be a fortuitous decision, even if Murray found the conditions "very, very heavy and very humid; sweating so much."

"When I finished, it was like I'd been in a bath," he said.

All in all, though, the day's last match provided far more excitement than the generally open-and-shut cases that dominated the rest



AP
Andy Murray of Britain celebrates a point won against Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during their fourth round singles match on centre court at Wimbledon, Monday, June 29, 2009.

of the fourth round.

Five-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer won easily, as did two-time runner-up Andy Roddick and No. 4 Novak Djokovic. Venus Williams, like Federer chasing a sixth title at the All England Club, was way

ahead when her opponent, former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic, quit with a thigh injury. Williams' younger sister, Serena, herself a two-time Wimbledon champion, and No. 4 Elena Dementieva were never challenged in their straight-set victories.

Yao reportedly could miss season with broken foot

HOUSTON (AP)—Rockets center Yao Ming's broken left foot could be a "career-threatening" injury. Dr. Tom Clanton, the Houston Rockets' team physician, told the *Houston Chronicle* on Monday that Yao's injury "has the potential for him missing this next season and could be career-threatening."

Yahoo! Sports first reported the Rockets and Yao's representatives were concerned the 7-foot-6 All-Star would never play again. Yahoo! Sports quoted "multiple league executives, officials close to Yao and two doctors with knowledge of the diagnoses."

Yao suffered a hairline fracture of the tarsal navicular bone late in a May 8 playoff game against the Los

Angeles Lakers. The team said last week the injury hasn't healed and he was out indefinitely.

Yao played in 77 regular-season games in 2008-09, his most injury-free year since 2004-05, when he played in 80. Before last season, Yao missed chunks of previous three seasons with leg and foot injuries.

He missed 21 games in 2005-06 after surgery to heal an infection to his left big toe, then broke a bone in his left foot with four games left in the regular season.

In 2006-07, Yao missed 32 games after breaking his right leg and he suffered a stress fracture in his left foot in 2007-08, underwent surgery and sat out 26 games.

Yao hurried back from that foot in-

jury to represent China in the Beijing Games. He made it through the Rockets' season and the first round of the playoffs before breaking his left foot late in the Rockets' 108-94 loss to the Lakers in Game 3 of the second round at the Toyota Center.

Two days later, Yao said he didn't believe the injury was as serious as any of his previous ones. The Rockets said he would miss only 8-12 weeks.

But last week, the team said Yao would undergo additional tests and consult with other doctors to map out a new course of treatment.

Yao is due to make over \$16 million next season with a player option for 2010-11 that would pay him over \$17 million. He was the top overall pick by the Rockets in the 2002 draft.

One surprising run ended in the fourth round. Melanie Oudin, a 17-year-old qualifier from Marietta, Ga., who never won a Grand Slam match before last week, lost to No. 11 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-4, 7-5.

"It's always difficult to play someone who you don't know," said Radwanska, who did not appear to have any difficulty Monday, but might find the road rougher Tuesday.

That's when she will play in the quarterfinals against Venus Williams, who has won 18 consecutive matches at Wimbledon and is trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win the tournament three years in a row.

Tuesday's other matches are No. 2 Serena Williams against No. 8 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, Dementieva against unseeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy, and Safina against unseeded Sabine Lisicki of Germany.

The men get a day off before their quarterfinals Wednesday, when the matchups will be No. 2 Federer vs. No. 22 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia, Murray vs. 2003 French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, Djokovic vs. No. 24 Tommy Haas, and Roddick vs. 2002 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt, who lost the first two sets but came back to beat No. 23 Radek Stepanek 4-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

"Lleyton and I have built up a very healthy respect for one another throughout the years," said Roddick, who smacked 24 aces, never faced a break point and eliminated No. 20 Tomas Berdych 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3. "We're a couple of the old guys now."

Well, Roddick is 26, and Hewitt is 28. Neither has anything on Haas, who at 31 was the oldest man to reach the fourth round and now meets the youngest, Djokovic, who was born a week after Murray.

Federer improved to 11-0 against Robin Soderling by beating him in straight sets in a rematch of the French Open final three weeks ago.

NBA BRIEFS

Timberwolves waiting on Rubio

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—While NBA executives across the league try to pry Spanish sensation Ricky Rubio away from the Timberwolves, team president David Kahn is in no hurry to deal. One of the biggest reasons many believe Rubio is available is also the biggest reason why Kahn can wait. The Timberwolves chose another point guard in Jonny Flynn one pick after Rubio fell into their lap on draft night. The sudden depth at the position means Kahn can afford to let Rubio stay in Spain for another season if the 18-year-old cannot negotiate a reasonable buyout of his contract with DKV Joventut. For now, the league's newest executive says he is content to let Rubio's contract situation play out before he makes any decision.

Bucks make offer to Sessions but not Villanueva

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks have made qualifying offers to restricted free agents Ramon Sessions and Ersan Ilyasova, but will not make an offer to Charlie Villanueva. Bucks general manager John Hammond said Monday the offers to Ses-

Now Federer has to deal with Karlovic, at 6-foot-10 the tallest player in tour history, who pounded 35 aces and served 10 games at love while defeating No. 7 Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (5), 6-7 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (9). Karlovic leads Wimbledon with 137 aces and has gone 128 service games over his past two tournaments without being broken.

"I mean maybe it's not the most fun match to go through," Federer said. "But I like to beat this guy because he makes it hard on us."

Federer and Wawrinka teamed to win the doubles gold medal at last year's Beijing Olympics. Otherwise, Wawrinka never has come close to approaching his friend's success. Bidding to reach his first major quarterfinal, though, Wawrinka gave Murray plenty of trouble.

It all felt more like a theater than a sports venue, thanks to the surroundings and the momentum shifts. Wawrinka came out playing superbly, then things swung in Murray's favor. With the local favorite seemingly in control, Wawrinka stole the fourth set. And in the fifth, which began at 9:56 p.m., Murray raced to a 3-0 lead, before Wawrinka took the next three games. Then Murray closed with a three-game run.

Sounds echoed with the roof closed on Centre Court, which originally was constructed in 1922. All those shouts of "Come on, Andy!" from all of those spectators waving Union Jacks and Scottish flags reverberated around the arena as hundreds of other people watched on a TV screen set up outdoors.

"At the end, it was probably the noisiest crowd I've ever played in front of," Murray said. "It definitely sounds and feels much louder under the roof."

Even Wawrinka was able to appreciate the setting, if not the result.

"I enjoy a lot the match," Wawrinka said. "But for sure, I'm very sad after the match."

sions and Ilyasova give them the right to match contract offers from other teams. Villanueva will be free to sign with any team. NBA teams have until Tuesday to make qualifying offers to their restricted free agents. Hammond says he did not want to elaborate on the reasons for the decisions.

Pacers let Daniels become free agent

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers will not exercise their team option on guard Marquis Daniels. Daniels' agent, Glenn Schwartzman, told The Associated Press in an e-mail on Monday that the Pacers have indicated that they will not pay the final year of the deal. Daniels would have made \$7.3 million next season, but now he's an unrestricted free agent. Daniels averaged a career-high 13.6 points per game last season, but Brandon Rush emerged late and is the favorite to start at shooting guard next season. Daniels has been successful during his three years as a Pacer, but he missed 73 games the past three seasons with an assortment of injuries. A Pacers spokesman says the team cannot comment on the situation until free agency officially begins Wednesday.

Lincecum shutout helps Giants to 10-0 win



ST. LOUIS (AP)— Tim Lincecum threw a two-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Travis Ishikawa homered in San Francisco's 10-0 rout of St. Louis on Monday night.

Lincecum tied teammate Matt Cain for the league lead in complete games and his 2.37 ERA is second in the NL after his third career shutout and fifth career complete game. He threw 95 pitches.

Brad Thompson took the loss for the Cardinals, who have lost five of six.

Astros 3, Padres 1

At San Diego, Houston's Roy Oswalt dominated the Padres again, pitching a two-hitter and retiring his final 18 batters.

Ivan Rodriguez homered and Oswalt (4-4) helped himself with two hits. The right-hander improved to 10-2 with a 2.68 ERA against the Padres in 15 career appearances, including 13 starts. His .833 winning percentage is the highest among active pitchers with at least 10 decisions against San Diego.

Brewers 10, Mets 6

At Milwaukee, Casey McGehee hit his first career grand slam and J.J. Hardy tied a career high with four hits, including a homer, for the hosts.

The Mets have lost four straight, falling under .500 (37-38) for the first time since May 5. Fernando Nieve (3-1) gave up 11 hits and three runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Braden Looper (6-4) allowed seven hits and two walks in 6 1-3 innings.

Cubs 3, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Rich Harden repeatedly worked out of trouble to win for the first time in more than six weeks and Ryan Theriot homered for Chicago.

The Cubs were 1-6 on a 10-game trip and 14-24 overall on the road before winning their eighth in their last 10 in Pittsburgh. They have won 20 of their last 25 games there.

Marlins 4, Nationals 2

At Miami, Ricky Nolasco retired the final 13 batters he faced and Emilio Bonifacio drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth for Florida.

Hanley Ramirez had three hits and an RBI for Florida, which snapped



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum throws during the second inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals on Monday, June 29, 2009, in St. Louis. AP

a three-game slide and is 7-0 against Washington this season. Nolasco won his third straight start, going eight innings and yielding four hits and two runs with eight strikeouts.

Rays 4, Blue Jays 1

At Toronto, Carl Crawford and Pat Burrell homered as Tampa Bay ruined Roy Halladay's return with its sixth straight victory, a 4-1 win over Toronto.

Halladay came in having won his past seven decisions, the longest streak in the majors, but lost for the first time since April 21. The Blue Jays have lost three straight.

Angels 5, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, Juan Rivera and Kendry Morales hit back-to-back home runs that helped the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels to their sixth straight win.

The first five Angels reached to start the sixth against Vicente Padilla. After Vladimir Guerrero's leadoff single, Rivera and Morales homered to put Los Angeles up 4-2. Chone Figgins drove in another run with a sacrifice fly.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Jon Lester pitched seven shutout innings and J.D. Drew came within a double of hitting for the cycle for Boston.

Jonathan Papelbon got the final out with two on to earn his 132nd career save, tying Bob Stanley for the most in Red Sox history. Papelbon has 19 saves this season in 20 opportunities.

White Sox 6, Indians 3

At Cleveland, Gavin Floyd shut out Cleveland on five singles over 7 2-3 innings as Chicago climbed back to .500 by handing the Indians their 11th loss

in 13 games.

Floyd, who started the season by losing four of his first six decisions, improved to 3-0 in June, 4-1 since May 22 and has a 1.39 ERA in his last eight starts.

Royals 4, Twins 2

At Kansas City, Miguel Olivo homered, tripled and drove in two runs and Luke Hochevar overcame some shaky moments in seven scoreless innings as Kansas City ended a five-game home losing streak.

The Royals missed a few early chances against Twins starter Nick Blackburn before breaking open a tight game on consecutive homers by Alberto Callaspo and Olivo in the sixth inning.

Athletics 7, Tigers 1

At Oakland, California, Mark Ellis hit a two-run homer in his second game

back from a two-month injury absence, and Ryan Sweeney homered and drove in two runs for the Athletics.

Kurt Suzuki had a run-scoring double for the last-place A's, who snapped a five-game losing streak with a rare 11-hit effort from a club that is last in the AL in batting average, hits, total bases and homers.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 2, 13 innings

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a two-run homer in the 13th inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Colorado Rockies in the opener of a suddenly significant series between NL West teams.

Rockies closer Huston Street wasn't available to pitch, having saved all three victories at Oakland last weekend, so manager Jim Tracy had to scramble for the right combination out of the bullpen.

NFL reviewing Plaxico Burress shooting incident



NEW YORK (AP)— NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has started his review of the Plaxico Burress shooting incident under the league's personal conduct policy.

The league confirmed Friday that Goodell was examining the incident in which Burress shot himself in the thigh in late November in a New York City nightclub. The commissioner could suspend him if he finds that the receiver violated the NFL policy on personal conduct.

Burress was notified of the commissioner's review on Friday by Adolpho Birch, the NFL's vice president of labor and law policy.

Burress, who caught the winning pass in the New York Giants' Super



Bowl victory over the New England Patriots in February 2008, was released by New York in April. He has not been signed by another team.

Burress still faces charges of criminal possession of a weapon. He would face up to 3 1/2 years in prison if convicted.

His case was recently adjourned until September. Defense lawyer Benjamin Brafman and prosecutors have yet to agree on a plea deal.

While Burress is free to sign with any team, the unresolved legal matter seemingly has made teams reluctant to add the talented wide receiver. And even if Burress avoids jail time, Goodell has the power to suspend him under the NFL's personal conduct policy.

The Giants signed Burress to a five-year, \$35 million contract extension in September. The team later withheld

\$1 million after the shooting and the NFL Players Association filed a grievance on Burress' behalf. A special master ruled the Giants had to pay Burress because the money was a signing bonus he earned upon agreeing to the

contract extension and could not be withheld for future conduct.

Burress has 505 career receptions for 7,845 yards and 55 touchdowns in nine seasons with the Giants and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Peterson trusts coach to make decision on Favre

NORMAN, Okla. (AP)—All-Pro running back Adrian Peterson would welcome Brett Favre to Minnesota with open arms if the quarterback decides to come out of retirement for the second straight year and sign with the Vikings.

Peterson said Friday that he grew up watching Favre and admires his passion for the game. But he said it's up to coach Brad Childress on whether to pursue Favre or stick with Sage

Rosenfels or Tarvaris Jackson as the Vikings quarterback.

Peterson said he thinks Childress will do whatever gives Minnesota the "best team possible to win games."

At least for a few days, Peterson was the featured quarterback. He spent time dropping back for passes and avoiding blitzers during his football camp for about 400 kids on his former college campus at Oklahoma.

KFAS grabs men's soccer lead

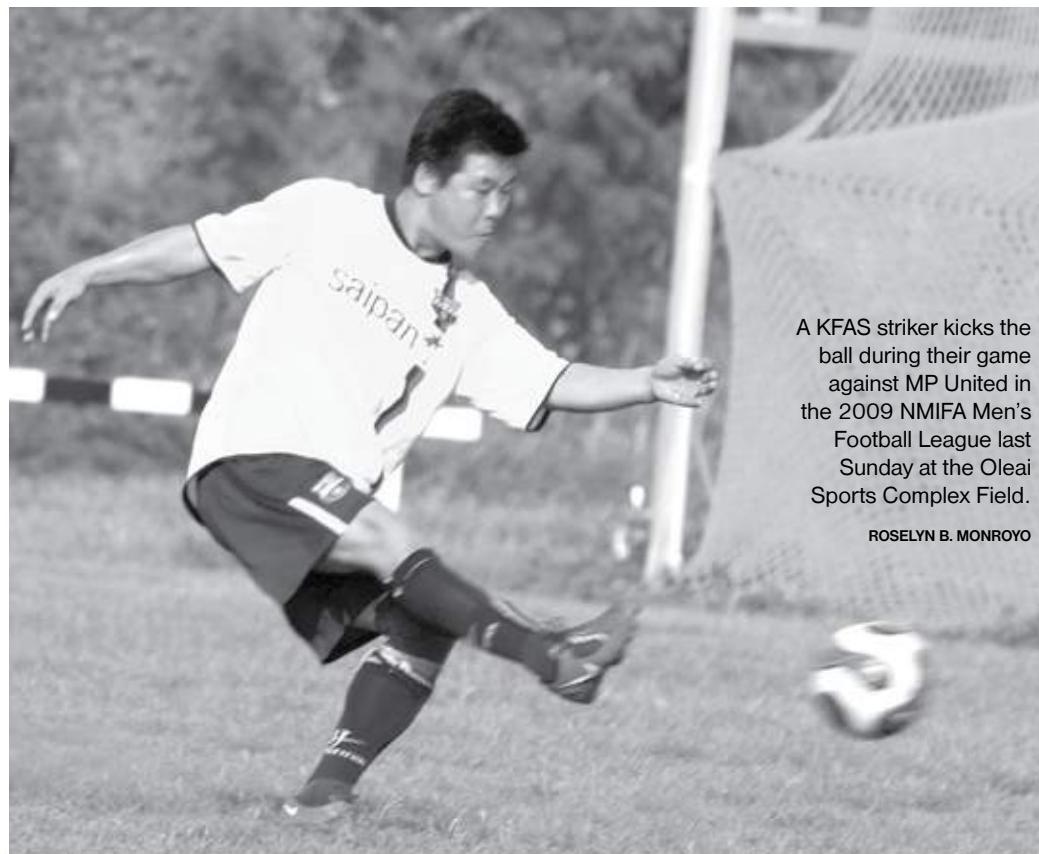
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Korean Football Association of Saipan took the lead in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League after outclassing MP United, 4-3, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

After three games, KFAS holds a 2-0-1 win-loss-draw record and now has six points, a point ahead of second placer Saipan International FC, which drew Korean Juniors in the other game last weekend.

Gil Jong Koo scored two goals for KFAS in the first half, while Lee Jun Woo and Cho Jin Joo logged the two others.

MP United's Dae Min Jeon drew first blood in the sixth minute. Joe Miller made it 2-0 for MP United, as he found the back of the net in the 18th minute.



A KFAS striker kicks the ball during their game against MP United in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

RANGERS

From Page 28

Clifton Sillil led the Rangers' breakaway with his two-run double while third baseman Pete Tomokane, second baseman Hector Efrain, and designated hitter J.J. Laniyo had one RBIs each.

The Rangers added five more in the fourth inning with Sillil

and Efrain making another RBI, along with Benwachi Taisacan. Sillil recorded his fourth RBI in the game at the bottom of the fifth, giving the Rangers a commanding 16-0 lead.

The D-9ers finally made it to the scoreboard at the top of the sixth inning with first baseman Ben Mesa making a one-run single and third baseman with a one-run double. However, those two runs were not enough to

start a major D-9ers comeback, as the Chel Castro-managed squad failed to score in the last three innings.

With the first two D-9ers batters out and John Acosta on first base, the Rangers concluded the series when rightfielder Roy Celis caught a fly ball from shortstop Wally Emul.

Craig Tenorio said they are dedicating their second championship to their deceased team-

mates John Paul Sablan and Joe Guerrero. The Rangers also want to share the 2009 title to Jeff Diaz, Raymond Guerrero, Chris Palacios, and John Reyes, who all have relocated to the mainland after making good contributions to the team in the past years.

"These are the boys who if they were here will surely play their best game to help the team win. And to the boys

who stayed, the team is proud of them for making things happen. Our new players stepped up and the veterans did their part, being good models to the new ones and showing leadership," Craig Tenorio added.

The Rangers had 12 players for Game 3. Completing the list were centerfielder Jess Iguel, shortstop Shane Yamada, starting pitcher Dung Tenorio, designated Shine Tenorio, catcher

baskets from MBI after topping Days 1 and 2 of the two-day tournament organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

Last Sunday, Rapahel Zapanta won his sixth straight Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament after tattooing 692 pins in the youth competition.

VisMinda 101 – Peredo 37, Artates 15, Cosino 11, Barrios 7, Manalo 7, Bicera 7, Joyner 6, Mateo 4, Gamboa 3, Veloso 2, Hernandez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-15, 52-45, 86-48, 113-101.

Second Game

SIP 112 – Esdrelon 22, Villacrusis 17, Talamia 14, Fernandez 12, Camacho 12, Factor 10, Mendoza 9, Palero 8, Mendiola 8.

Cabalen 73 – Mina 41, Guiang 12, Ortega 10, Corotan 7, Quinto 6, Tobias 5, Basa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-16, 53-36, 90-51, 112-73.

First Game
SMF 113 – Cruz 45, Arreza 15, Cadagat 15, Llerio 10, Pagarrao 9, Tagle 8, Moises 6, Itaas 2, Mendez 2.

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2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Women's All-Stars Selection members, from left, New Zealand's Zoe Kensington, Guam's Derin Santos, Australia's Caitlin Rowe, New Caledonia's Myriam Fenuafanote, and the CNMI's Connie Camacho show their trophies and certificates during the awards and closing ceremonies for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CNMI and Australia players and coaches pose for a souvenir photo after their game in the elimination round.



Guest performers entertain players and coaches during the awards and closing ceremonies for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Guam and New Zealand players shake hands at the medal podium.



Guam's Shintaro Okada, left, goes for a layup against New Zealand's Jordan Mills during their bronze medal game.



New Zealand's Zoe Kensington loses her balance and the ball during their gold medal game against Australia in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Australia's Jeromie Hill, left, is fouled by New Caledonia's Rodrigue Tetainanuarii during their gold medal game in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Australia's Rebecca Cole tries to keep her balance, while New Zealand's Zoe Kensington defends her.



New Caledonia's Rodrigue Tetainanuarii pulls up for a jumper against the CNMI's Quincy Johnson and Oscar Ada.



KFAS grabs men's soccer lead
Korean Football Association of Saipan took the lead in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League after outclassing MP United, 4-3, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. **26**

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009



Murray edges Wawrinka under Wimbledon's roof
They played into the night on Centre Court, later than anyone ever had in Wimbledon's long history, and they played indoors, the first match contested entirely under the new roof. **24**

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rangers sweep D-9ers in BSML finals



The Ford Rangers and their supporters pose with their numerous trophies during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ford Rangers took the short route to the finish line after sweeping the D9-ers in their best-of-five title series in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

An 18-2 win in Game 3 allowed the Rangers to wrap up the series in less than a week, a big contrast to Rock Steady's title quest last season. It took

Rock Steady more than three weeks to thwart the Rangers in the 2008 title series due to rain and power outages.

Last year's loss was the Rangers' second straight bridesmaid finish and they are happy to be back on top this time and claim the title they last won in 2005.

"We would have wanted a rematch with Rock Steady, but D9-ers came out strong in the semis. Nevertheless, we were ready to take any opponents and play our

best in every game," manager Craig Tenorio said.

The Rangers gave their best for last, as Game 3 was clearly a show of dominance for the pennant champions, who lost only once in 12 games in the regular season and were unbeaten for more than three months.

A seven-run bottom of the third helped the Rangers pull away, turning a 1-0 lead to an 8-1 count. Leftfielder

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Robert, Ron rule June bowlfest

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR


Robert Talavera won his first King of the Lanes crown of the year, while Ron Cal took her second tiara of 2009 following last Sunday and Monday's June Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Talavera saw his Day 1 pinfall total of 902 and 225.5 average hold up Monday. The Minalin, Pampanga in the Philippines native vaulted to the lead after stringing together a four-game series of 177, 264, 229, and 232 last Sunday.

Curiously, the best score in Day 2 was his own output of 215.5 that was built around rolls of 265, 233, 192, and 172—good for a 215.5 average.

Because only a player's high score counts, Raul Dumapit eventually got the runner-up honor after registering the second best score of 829 pinfalls. He rolled a four-game series of 190, 236, 203, and 200 to finish with a

See ROBERT on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Robert Talavera, right, poses with third placer Percy Omechalang after winning the June Budweiser King of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

SIP on a roll, SMF ends slide

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense extended its winning run after demolishing

Cabalen, 112-73, in the second game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Sunday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

See SIP on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
SIP's Peter Mendiola looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as he is surrounded by three Cabalen defenders during their game in the UFO caging last Sunday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.